Friday, July 27, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 229 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Ateneo finally beats La Salle after 7 games, wins in overtime

SPORTS / A25

50 Iraqis celebrating Asian Cup win killed by car bombs

WORLD / A24

Sand quarry income: P20M in 20 days, now biggest source of tax in Pampanga

ACROSS / A15

Obesity contagious, US researchers find

LOS ANGELES—IF your friends and family get fat, chances are you will, too, researchers report in a startling new study that suggests obesity is "socially contagious" and

OBESITY/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
PRICELESS NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

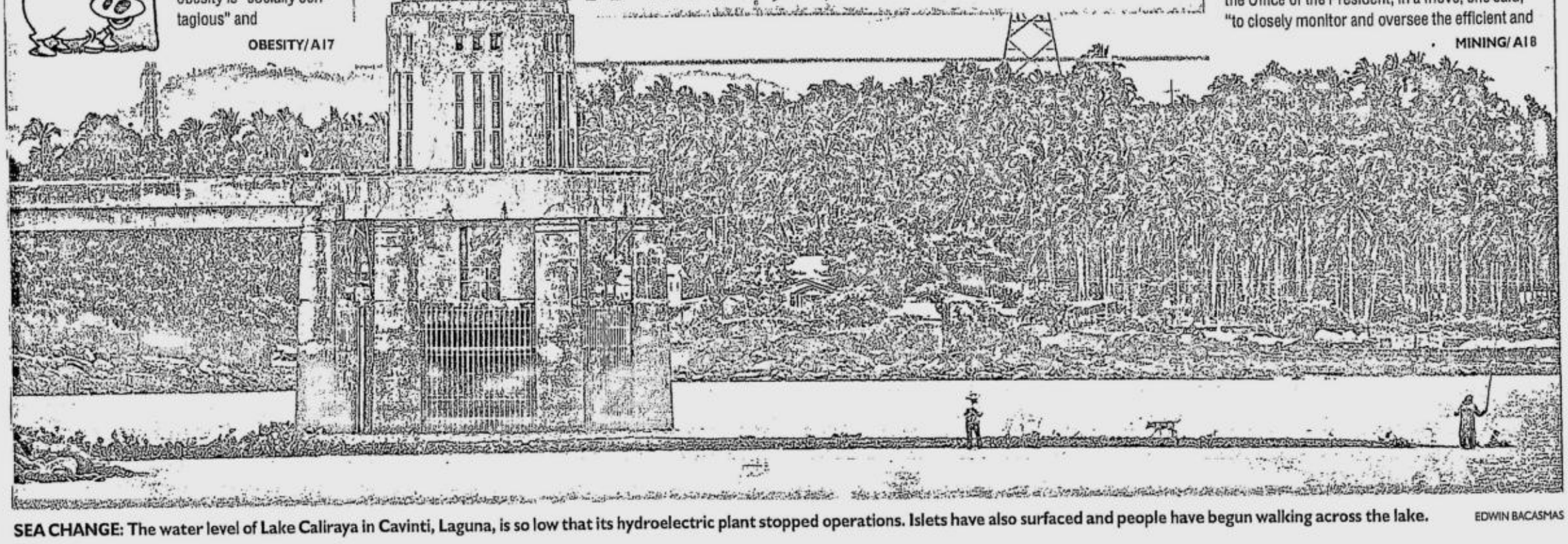
Mining out of DENR; now under GMA office

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADD THE MINING INDUSTRY TO PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's hands-on concerns.

Ms Arroyo has ordered supervision of the mining industry transferred from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the Office of the President, in a move, she said, "to closely monitor and oversee the efficient and

MINING/ A18



SEA CHANGE: The water level of Lake Caliraya in Cavinti, Laguna, is so low that its hydroelectric plant stopped operations. Islets have also surfaced and people have begun walking across the lake. EDWIN BACASMAS

Red alert in power sector

Transco says brownouts may occur anytime

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon
Abigail L. Ho
and TJ Burgonio

THE STATE-OWNED NAtional Transmission Corp. (Transco) has placed all power distribution companies on "red alert" since Wednesday, indicating that power interruption could occur at anytime without warning, according to documents released by an electric cooperative in Benguet.

Parts of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal and Laguna experienced two hours without electricity two days ago after Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) implemented rolling brownouts because of the low power supply.

Baguio City and eastern Pangasinan also suffered power outages.

A dry spell that has slowed down hydroelectric power plants, a major shortfall in the coal supplied by government to independent power producers

RED ALERT/ A7

NO SHORTAGE HERE: The geothermal plant in Tiwi town, Albay, carries on without a hitch as it's fueled by geothermal steam supplied by Unocal Corp. Built to stand typhoons, the power complex consists of three plants, the first one commissioned in 1979. They have a total installed capacity of 275 megawatts. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Free all kids in jail, GMA orders police

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Volt Contreras

WITH HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN STILL languishing in prisons nationwide despite the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued an executive order directing the Department of Justice and the Public Attorneys' Office (PAO) to work for their immediate release.

Executive Order No. 633, dated July 16, covers children aged 15 years and under at the time the crime was committed who are still being held in the facilities of the Bureau of Jail Management

FREE ALL KIDS/ A18

Habitat goes on Bicol Express to rebuild homes

By Tarra Quismundo

ONE DOESN'T NEED EXPERTISE IN PILing blocks, driving nails or painting walls, just the heart to rebuild lives one at a time.

Seeking to enlist more volunteers for a noble mission, Habitat for Humanity, an international humanitarian group, is going on a road trip to Bicol in September to build homes for families displaced by typhoons "Milenyo" and "Reming" last year.

Habitat is aiming to provide perma-

HABITAT/ A6

Leftists liken Negroponte to the Grim Reaper

By Alcuin Papa

LEFTIST GROUPS HAVE LIKENED THE visit next week of US Ambassador John Negroponte to the coming of the Grim Reaper.

Negroponte has been named the eleventh-hour substitute for US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who has been forced to call off her participation in the 40th ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Manila to proceed urgently to the Middle East.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo told reporters yesterday that Rice would visit the Philippines after her trip to the Middle East with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Romulo, however, did not give a date.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said the arrival of Negroponte, the deputy secretary of state, was "curious" given that the Arroyo administration was embroiled in the extrajudicial killings controversy.

"Negroponte's presence in the Philippines bodes ill for human rights in the country. It's like being visited by the Grim Reaper," Reyes said.

Negroponte, a former US ambassador

LEFTISTS/ A6

Cat predicts deaths at nursing home

AP

FAT CAT: Oscar, in a Rhode Island hospice, curls up next to patients in their final hours.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISland—When Oscar the cat visits terminally ill patients at Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, the staff jumps into action.

Oscar seems to have an uncanny knack for predicting when nursing home patients are going to die, curling up next to them during their final hours.

In his two years stay at Steere's end-stage dementia unit, the cat has been at the bedside of more than 25 patients shortly before they died.

Oscar's record has led the staff

CAT PREDICTS/ A17

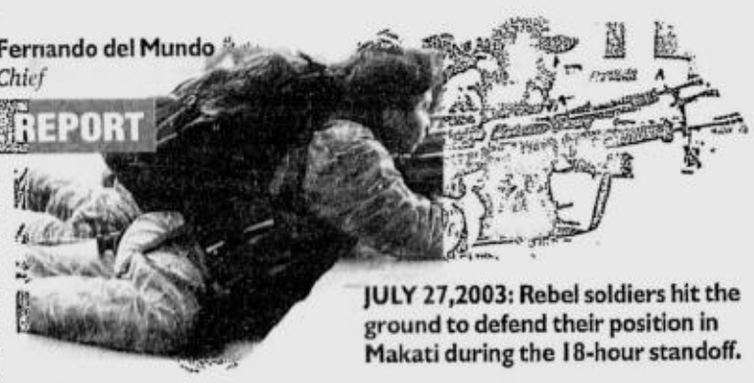
FOUR YEARS AFTER OAKWOOD

Only 20 'true believers' stay the course

(Editor's note: In the predawn hours of July 27, 2003, more than 300 military officers and men seized the Oakwood apartment-hotel in Makati City, protesting corruption in government and demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The mutiny failed and the mutineers landed behind bars. Most of them have pleaded guilty to a lesser offense or entered into a plea bargain. But several dozen have opted to go on trial, believing in the justness of their cause. In this series, the INQUIRER details the price the holdouts are paying for their 18-hour uprising.)

-TEAM Fernando del Mundo
Chief

SPECIAL REPORT



JULY 27,2003: Rebel soldiers hit the ground to defend their position in Makati during the 18-hour standoff. INQUIRER PHOTO

By Christine O. Avendaño

(First of two parts)

MUCH AS HE WANTED TO, NICK failed to pay his last respects to his father when he died several months ago.

Edwin can only sigh as he thinks of how his wife has been dealing single-handedly with the slings and arrows that have come

ONLY 20/ A18

TIMELINE

18 hours at Oakwood

July 18: President Macapagal-Arroyo orders the Armed Forces chief of staff to look into the complaints of junior officers, mostly from the Philippine Military Academy Class 95, reported in the INQUIRER.

July 19: Restive junior officers seek the advice of Sen. Gregorio Honasan, saying the former coup plotter's National

18 HOURS/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2007

EZ2 SIX DIGIT
28 2 | 5 8 5 7 5 2
Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
7 1 1 | 5 4 5
(All in exact order)
SUPERLOTTO 6/49
21 27 31 34 46 49
P24,174,583.20

Second FrontPage

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern sections of Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/26/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Erap transcripts a puzzle

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SENATORS ARE BAFFLED BY A SUPPOSED transcript of a phone conversation in which deposed President Joseph Estrada is heard to be allegedly making a deal with the Arroyo administration to boost the chances of his son, Jinggoy, in the 2004 senatorial elections.

In the alleged phone conversation between Estrada and a high-ranking Arroyo government official, the jailed ex-President is shown to be seeking assurances from Malacañang that his son would win election as senator.

In exchange, Estrada supposedly promised to prevent any partnership developing between the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the presidential contest, in which Poe would run as president and the latter as vice-president.

Poe and Lacson both went on to run for president, splitting the opposition vote and ensuring President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory. Jinggoy won a Senate seat.

Lacson said he could not make any judgment until he personally hears the alleged Erap tape, a transcript of which was sent through e-mail.

"Until somebody comes forward with a copy of the tape, everything is purely speculation," he said.

No deal

Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's former chief of staff who is believed to be the government official talking to Estrada in the tape, told dzRH radio that there was no deal with Estrada.

Jinggoy has denied the allegations.

But while the tape has not yet surfaced, some of those involved in the Poe campaign could not help speculating.

Sen. Gringo Honasan, who was in charge of security in the Poe campaign, said that even then he felt that there were efforts to undermine Poe's presidential bid.

"We were given the responsibility to campaign for him but we were not given the responsibility nor the authority to accomplish this. In the end, our group [former senators Tito Sotto and Tessie Aquino-Oreta] found ourselves the subject of intrigues. Now, looking back, it looks like there was a reason for this," said Honasan.

Sotto said that this could be the reason why he was removed as campaign manager for Poe, and other Estrada allies took over.

"I was the closest to FPJ yet I was the first one to be removed," he said.

"I concur with Senator Honasan that this could be the reason why we were unceremoniously kicked out," said Sotto who, with Oreta, ran in the administration slate after failing to get a slot in the opposition ticket in the recent senatorial elections. Honasan ran as an independent.

But Sen. Loren Legarda said she believed that Estrada was sincere in working for the opposition's concerns rather than his own.

"The tape could be just a ploy to further divide the opposition," said Legarda, who cited the election for the Senate President in which the opposition was reduced to a minority despite enjoying numerical superiority.

'It ain't true'

By Tarra Quismundo

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY Alberto Romulo yesterday dismissed as falsehood a report that the United States had cut its military aid to the Philippines and reported that the opposite did in fact happen.

"That ain't true," Romulo, evidently in a good mood, said in a press briefing at the 40th Asean Ministerial Meeting yesterday. "That simply ain't true. Is that grammatically correct?"

Television network ABS-CBN carried as a top story on Wednesday in its news channel ANC and in its news website that the US, a staunch defense ally of the Philippines, had decided to cut back its military aid appropriations for the country by a staggering two-thirds, from around $30 million to $11.1 million.

The US Embassy had called the report "misleading."

Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop had said on Wednesday that the report was "premature" as the US Congress had yet to pass the federal government's 2008 budget, which included international aid appropriations.

Contrary to the ABS-CBN report, Romulo said, the Philippine mission in Washington disclosed that the US Congress had even boosted its appropriations for the Philippines, once a site of large American off-shore naval and air force bases and a constant partner in military exercises despite local indignation.

"I just got a report from Washington that in fact, they're increasing the aid to the Philippines, both in the Senate and in the House," Romulo said.

He gave neither figures nor the status of the proposed increases. But recent US Congress reports on budget appropriations showed that the legislature had overwritten the proposed $11.1 million military aid budget for the Philippines.

Court fire won't stop Jonas hearing

By Jerome Aning and Tina G. Santos

THIS MORNING'S HEARING ON THE PETITION for habeas corpus filed by relatives of missing activist Jonas Burgos will proceed at the Court of Appeals despite the fire that hit the main court building yesterday.

Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez told reporters his office had not received any communication from the CA regarding postponement of the Burgos hearing.

Fire struck the main CA Building at 12:35 p.m. It reached the fifth alarm and was declared under control at 1:48 p.m.

Firemen said the blaze began in the office of Associate Justice Edgardo Sundiam on the fourth floor. At least eight other associate justices hold office on the same floor.

A justice, who asked not to be named, said he heard from an employee that an air conditioner in the conference hall had short-circuited and this may have caused the blaze.

He remembered seeing smoke coming from the ceiling of his office before the alarm was raised. "Maybe it was the electrical wiring," he told reporters.

The building was closed for the day as fire investigators did their job.

Court employees were sent home early, although a few remained to pick up and dry soggy documents.

SFO2 Emmanuel Gaspar said Sundiam's office was totally damaged.

The fire spread quickly to the adjacent offices. "At least four other offices were partly damaged," Gaspar said.

Initial damage estimate was placed at P200,000.

At least 20 government and volunteer fire trucks responded to the blaze.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to present Burgos at the Court of Appeals today after the son of the late press freedom icon Jose Burgos Jr. was kidnapped from a Quezon City mall on April 28 by persons believed to be members of the military.

Negros judge shot; SC chief condemns slay try

By Jerome Aning

THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGE OF Bayawan City in Negros Oriental is in critical condition after he was shot by a still unidentified gunman on Wednesday night.

Judge Orlando Velasco, 59, was getting down from a motorcycle driven by a court employee at his home in Barangay Villareal, Bayawan, at about 7:40 p.m. when the motorcycle-riding gunman opened fire, said provincial police director Senior Supt. Melvin Ramon Buenafe.

Velasco was brought to the Bayawan District Hospital where doctors removed one slug of a caliber .45 bullet from his body. He has since been transferred to the Silliman Medical Center in Dumaguete City.

Police recovered three .45 caliber shells at the scene of the crime. One person was arrested but he was released yesterday after a paraffin test showed him to be negative for powder burns.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno condemned the slay attempt on Velasco and called on the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation "to unleash the powers at their disposal to apprehend and neutralize the perpetrators of this latest act of violence against a member of the judiciary."

House gets woman deputy speaker

By Christian V. Esguerra

SAYING IT WAS TIME FOR "GENDER BALance" in the male-dominated House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday agreed to the election of a fifth Deputy Speaker from the ranks of the 54 women representatives.

"We've always considered the geographical and political balance (of the lower chamber)," De Venecia said at a media forum, referring to the selection of deputy speakers from Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao and the major political parties.

"Now there's need for gender balance," he said.

De Venecia was forced to act after Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel complained about the gender inequality.

Shortly after De Venecia announced the four deputy speakers, Hontiveros went up to the podium to point out that no woman legislator was given a major House position.

The four deputy speakers are Eric Singson (Lakas, Ilocos Sur), Arnulfo Fuentebella (Nationalist People's Coalition, Camarines Sur), Raul del Mar (Lakas, Cebu) and Simeon Datumanong (Lakas, Maguindanao).

De Venecia suggested the fifth deputy speaker be chosen from the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), President Macapagal-Arroyo's party. Together with De Venecia's Lakas, Kampi makes up the majority in the House.

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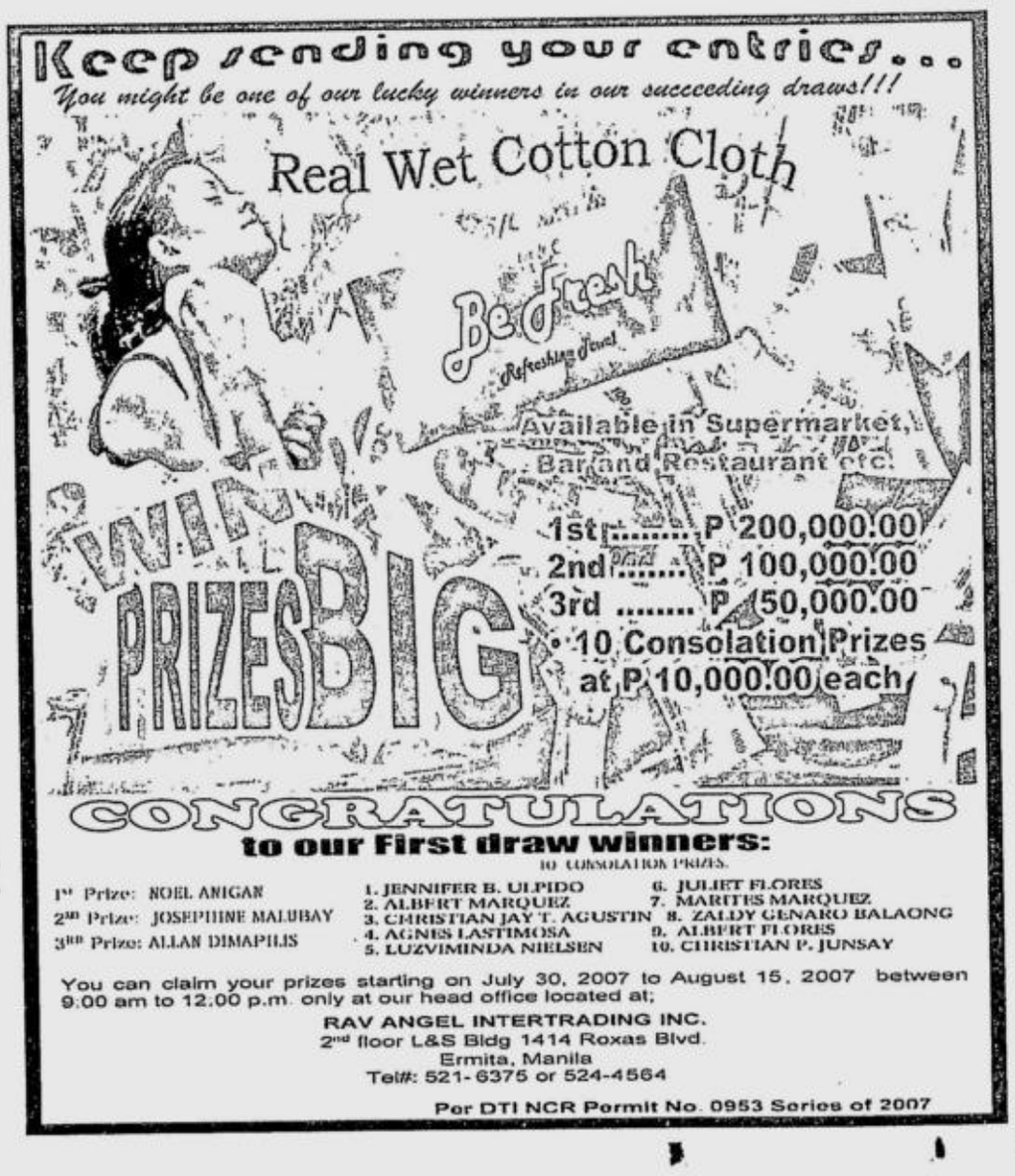

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0953 Series of 2007

THE REVIVAL OF 'KOMIKS' as art form and information tool was spearheaded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts with President Arroyo as special guest on Thursday in Intramuros. Carlo Caparas, who helped popularized "komiks" and other komiks creators have been invited by Ms Arroyo to spread awareness on water and energy conservation. LYN RILLON

NBI forms 3 teams to probe forex scam

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION said it was assigning three divisions in the Performance Investment Products Corp. investigations as it expects a flood of complaints from the foreign exchange trading firm's rich victims.

The Interpol, Anti-Organized Crime Division (AOCD) and the National Capital Region (NCR) divisions have been tapped to handle the case of PIPC whose Singaporean owner has disappeared with at least $250 million of investors' money.

But to date, only two investors have formally filed a complaint against PIPC's incorporators, particularly Cristina Gonzalez-Tuason, the firm's Filipino general manager.

While the number of complainants would not really affect or hinder the filing of the case against the PIPC officers, more complaints from more investors would serve to bolster the charges, said Dominador Villanueva, executive officer of the NBI Interpol.

"That's why we urge other victims to come out in the open and file complaints," he said.

He said more divisions had been tapped to handle the PIPC case because the bureau was expecting the firm's victims to flock to the NBI, but that has not happened.

Two investors who went to the NBI said those who lost huge amounts of money from the PIPC forex trading scheme were embarrassed to come out.

Lawyer John John Felipe, who said he was representing at least five investors, said they were still talking with other investors and putting together the necessary documents.

One of the investors who filed a complaint with NBI-Interpol, a businesswoman from Makati's Dasmariñas Village, said "several residents and affluent families from Forbes and Dasmariñas" were victimized by PIPC.

Another investor, a businessman in his 30s who filed his complaint before the NBI-AOCD said some of the PIPC investors included expatriates and business executives.

"There are also those who came from prominent and very influential families in the Visayas. That's why they were embarrassed to come out in open," he said.

Though Tuason claimed to have been a victim, too, having herself lost her investments, the complainant investors are also targeting her in their complaint as she was one of the PIPC incorporators and had recruited others to invest in the firm.

"Tuason was a complainant in the Interpol but she was a suspect in the other division," Villanueva said.

"It does not mean that just because you are a complainant, you cannot be a suspect also," he said in Filipino.

Villanueva said investors who filed a complaint before the NBI pointed to Tuason as the one who enticed them to invest.

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Maligayang pagbati
sa ika-93 na anibersaryo ng INC!

SA NGALAN ng aking mag-anak at kababayan sa lalawigan ng Cavite, tauspuso kong binabati ang malawak na komunidad at kapatiran ng Iglesia ni Cristo sa ika-93 taong anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag nito.

Isinilang ang INC mula sa sinapupunan ng karaniwang mamamayang Pilipino sa Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila noong Hulyo 27, 1914. Mula sa iilang kasapi, sa paggabay ng kauna-unahang Punong Ministro nito, si Kapatid Felix Y. Manalo, lumawak ang INC sa buong bansa, at sa buong mundo. Ngayon, ang INC ay isang matatag na moog ng pananampalataya at pagpapalaganap sa Salita ng Diyos.

Sa lalawigan ng Cavite, ang komunidad at kapatiran ng INC ay isang bukal na sa anumang oras ay maaasahan, lalo na sa paghahatid ng serbisyo sa mahihirap naming kababayan. Sila'y huwaran ng pagtutulungan at pagkakaisa, na siyang kailangan ng ating bayan ngayon sa pagharap sa samu't saring hamon na kinahaharap nito.

Nawa'y maging matatag lalo ang komunidad at kapatirang INC sa ilalim ng pamamahala ni kapatid na Eraño G. Manalo, Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan, upang patuloy itong makapagbigay liwanag sa ating bayan, sa kaluwalhatian ng Panginoon.

Muli, maligayang anibersaryo sa INC!

GOBERNADOR AYONG S. MALIKSI
Lalawigan ng Cavite

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES
The most outstanding graduates of the past school year pose with top officials of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in a recent visit. They are (left to right): Marjorie M. Aleman, John P. Nonog, Glen G. Fabia, Charmaine F. Benosa, Jonalyn P. Pido (represented by her aunt Nita Pacaña) and Hannah Mae G. Laguros. They received their certificates of recognition from INQUIRER Chair Marixi Prieto, President Sandy P. Romualdez, SVP for marketing and sales Renato R. Reinoso and AVP for circulation Simon R. Yap. EUGENE ARANETA

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Sujata Mukhi
and more!

DAY 1 AUGUST 4, 2007
Doing Good: Media Share Their Success Stories
PRINT MEDIA
Remington and Leica:
The Power of Words and Images

DAY 2 AUGUST 11, 2007
BROADCAST MEDIA: TV AND FILM
It's Not an Idiot Box: The Influence of TV to Change
Film: (to) Save (the) Future

DAY 3 AUGUST 18, 2007
THE INTERNET
Trends of the Future:
Reeducation of the Internet Movement
1:4 pm Change in a Few Clicks: NPOs Employing New Media

DAY 4 AUGUST 25, 2007
RADIO AND MUSIC
8:12 am AM/FM: Advocacy Through the Radio
1:4 pm Music for Good
8:8 pm Non-Profit Networking Night
• performances by socially-oriented artists and groups
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Erap claims credit for 4 infra works cited in Sona

By Volt Contreras

AFTER JESTING THAT HE WOULD RATHER GO to a sauna than listen to President Macapagal-Arroyo's Sona (State of the Nation Address) last Monday, deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday said there were things that he found objectionable in the President's speech.

He claimed credit for four infrastructure projects mentioned in Ms Arroyo's Sona which he said he had either initiated or found the funding during his short-lived administration.

He cited the newly inaugurated bridge in Butuan City, the Iloilo airport, the Subic-Clark highway, and the flood control project for Metro Manila's Camanava district (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela).

"They would not have been built had I not secured funding," Estrada said in Filipino from his Tanay vacation estate where he is under house arrest while on trial for plunder.

"I'm not accusing her of credit-grabbing. I just wanted it clarified. It's all documented and can be attested to by [former National Economic Development Authority chief] Dr. Felipe Medalla," he said.

According to Estrada's media officer, the Butuan bridge was a campaign promise he made to Butuan residents in the 1998 presidential campaign. When he visited Japan in 1999, Estrada claimed to have obtained funding for the project from the Obuchi Fund put up by then Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.

In her speech at the joint session of the 14th Congress, Ms Arroyo reported that the P1.7-billion bridge was inaugurated last July 10.

The President devoted much of the Sona to reporting about the super-region project, or the administration's infrastructure development program aimed at decongesting the cities and stimulating economic activity outside the main urban centers.

Pinay sentenced to death in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY—A HOUSE MAID FROM THE Philippines has been convicted of murdering her employer's son and sentenced to death by hanging, her lawyer said Wednesday.

Attorney Faisal al-Matar said he was appealing the ruling handed down by a criminal court on Tuesday to the 25-year-old woman, May Membrini, from the Philippines.

The attorney said the court found Membrini guilty of slitting the throat of seven-year-old Salem al-Otaibi with a kitchen knife. Membrini had also attempted to murder the boy's brother, Abdullah, 11, and sister, Hajar, 18.

The court said that the accused stabbed the older siblings repeatedly, but that they managed to escape and survived the attack which took place in their home in January.

Al-Matar said Membrini had told the court that her employer's wife called her names in front of company, minutes before she undertook the deadly attack.

More than 500,000 domestic helpers from Asian countries are employed in this small oil-rich state in the Gulf with a population of around 3 million. The maids commonly complain of nonpayment of salaries and physical abuse. *AP*

Correction

IN THE JULY 25 ISSUE, the caption of a front-page photo misstated the government position of Antonio "Tonypet" Albano. Albano is the undersecretary and executive director of the Office of the Political Coalition Affairs—not the interior undersecretary.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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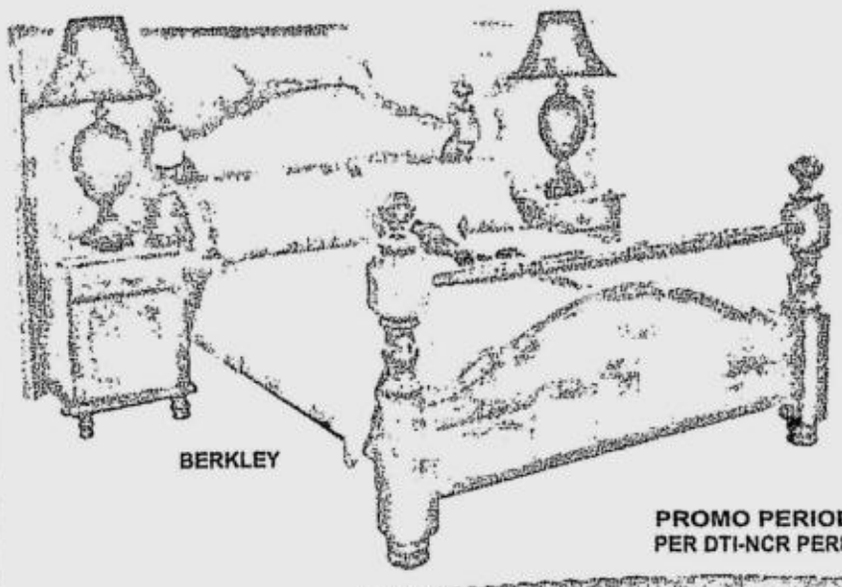

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Habitat goes on Bicol Express to rebuild homes, lives

From page A1

nent shelters for some 2,000 families by the end of the year, said Margie Moran-Floirendo, cochair of Friends of Habitat.

It is for this mission that Habitat was prodded to bring its annual Build-on-Faith volunteer event to the region, where many homeless families still spend their days and nights in tents amid less-than-ideal conditions.

"It's a continuing project. We've already started and we've finished 1,500 houses. It's an event to bring in more volunteers. It's a weekend event ... we'll be happy to get 200 to 400 volunteers. We will organize it from here and caravan to Bicol," Floirendo told the INQUIRER.

Bicol Express

The event begins on Sept. 21 with a convoy to Bicol. Called "Bicol Express" for the region's famous spicy delicacy, the main program will be staged at a yet-to-be-announced location on Sept. 22.

There, volunteers can sign up so they can take part in building 500 homes Habitat wants finished by December to meet its goal of completing 2,000 houses for typhoon victims this year.

Efforts started in January have already met three-fourths of the target.

New recruits will work with Habitat's pool of skilled workers and a thousands-strong family of volunteers, including those who had built homes for displaced families in tsunami-stricken Banda Aceh in Indonesia.

Quick-build technology

Like any other project Habitat had undertaken in other disaster sites around the world, the Bicol leg will be fully funded by partners from the private sector. The houses will be turned over to recipient families at no cost.

Ranging from duplex to detached homes, the units will rise using Habitat's quick-build technology, which involves steel frames and Pinoy-designed interlocking blocks. The same technology has helped Habitat speed up its low-cost construction projects around the country since four years ago.

Habitat, a Christian ministry, has built 20,000 houses for poor communities around the Philippines since it came to the country in 1988. Teachers, tricycle drivers, policemen, government employees and market vendors have moved into houses under their names at costs ranging from P45,000 to P90,000, Floirendo said.

Same name recall as Starbucks

The worldwide organization, which Floirendo said had a similar name recall as Starbucks in the United States, has built houses for fire victims in the Baseco compound in Manila and slum communities in Pasay City and Taguig, villages in Mindanao, and cooperatives in provinces around the country with most "home partners" (beneficiaries).

For many of Habitat's homeowners, living within sturdy walls and under a stable roof become affordable by forgoing a liter of soda or giving up some cigarettes every day. The daily rate of payment can be as low as P16.

"To us, it's not the number of houses that we build that's important but the number of families that we serve. So no number is a small number because a lot of work and love and money have been put into these houses," Floirendo said.

"And I believe that resources are large. Accessing resources will always be there. It's faith. That's why our celebration this September is called Building on Faith," she said.

Value of saving

The mission has taught recipient families the value of saving, said Floirendo, a lesson that cannot be taught overnight.

As a result, Habitat's repayment rate of 85 percent among beneficiaries rivals that of banks and is better than that of the government's housing program, according to Floreindo.

"The key there is the responsibility that we teach a person to be able to pay back society, because for every payment we get for a house, the [beneficiary is] building another house. That's the concept of 'house for a house,'" she said.

Personal reward

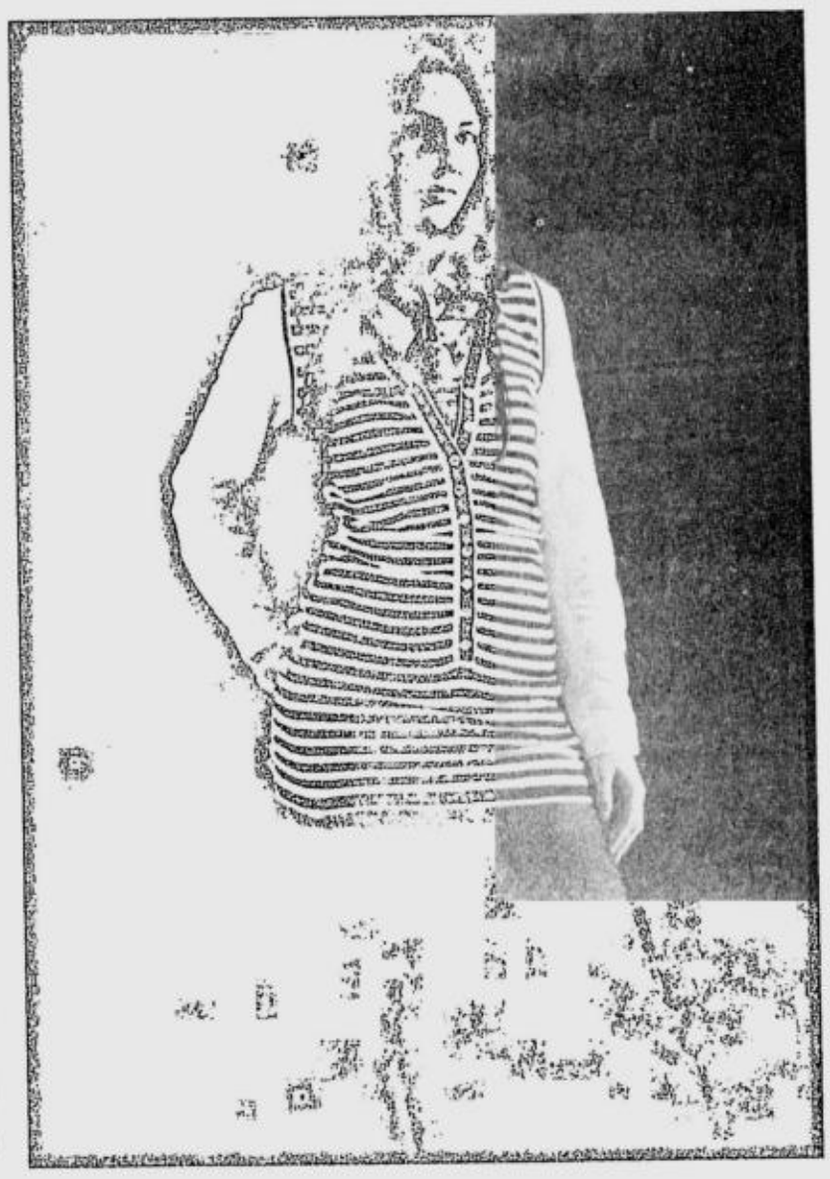
While there may be no monetary reward for volunteers, there is no better feeling than sweating it out to build shelters for those who may have no other way to own homes, she said.

"I can see that my personal reward is giving back to God what He has given me. I believe that grace always comes in many forms and, to me, it's also a responsibility that I have for my country—to take part in nation-building," said Floirendo, winner of the Ms Universe contest in 1973.

Those who want to join Bicol Express may e-mail Habitat at bicolexpress.habitat@gmail.com.

FASHION FORECAST

You don't have to look as gloomy as the weather



THE LANDMARK

Leftists liken Negroponte to Grim Reaper

From page A1

NEGROPONTE

to the Philippines, is set to hold one-on-one talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo during the Asean meeting which starts Sunday.

In the 1980s, Negroponte was ambassador to Honduras and was said to be instrumental in the disappearance of around 200 people at the hands of the US-backed Honduran military. But Negroponte has insisted that right-wing death squads never operated in Honduras during the time he was there.

Reyes said Negroponte's arrival would signal the intensification of US intervention in the government's counterinsurgency campaign.

"Negroponte has been implicated as the architect of the Latin American death squads and was also a key operator in the Vietnam War. With his long background, we are worried and concerned by his visit," Reyes said.

Full disclosure demanded

He also called on the Arroyo administration to make a full disclosure of Negroponte's agenda and his talk with Ms Arroyo.

Reyes also noted that the last time Negroponte was in the country in early 2006, he had meetings with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

"That was the same year when the (extrajudicial) killings escalated," Reyes said.

He said Ermita also served in Vietnam during the war there and that retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan was in Iraq at the same time Negroponte was posted there.

Militant groups have called Palparan a "butcher" for his alleged campaign of extrajudicial killings of militants in areas where he was assigned.

Militant groups have listed more than 800 political killings since 2001 when the Arroyo administration began. But police say the number is only about 160.

Police officials have mobilized a 6,500-strong force to secure the Philippine International Convention Center, where the Asean ministers will meet.

Organizers expect 1,000 local and foreign journalists to cover the event.

North Korea

The meeting is expected to praise North Korea for shutting down its nuclear reactor while pressing it to do more to address humanitarian concerns.

A draft statement to be issued at the end of the Asean Regional Forum meeting on Aug. 2, seen by The Associated Press yesterday, welcomes Pyongyang's shutdown of its Yongbyon reactor this month and its commitment to declare all its nuclear programs and disable all its nuclear facilities.

"The ministers also stressed the importance of addressing the issue of humanitarian concerns of the international community," said the draft statement by the 27 ARF members, which include North Korea and the United States.

The statement did not spell out the humanitarian concerns or steps to be taken.

But UN humanitarian chief John Holmes warned earlier this month in Geneva that access for international relief agencies in North Korea remained difficult.

Holmes said the difficulty relief workers had in moving around North Korea had limited UN food aid operations.

He said UN agencies remained concerned "because of the dangers of hunger in North Korea and the dangers of neglect of the health of young children and vaccinations and epidemics." *With reports from Tarra Quismundo, Michael Lim Ubac, AP*

Red alert in power sector

From page A1

(IPPs), and the breakdown of old power plants have resulted in a "zero-system reserve," Transco said in a July 23 memorandum that explained its alert status. Transco operates the national power grid.

Gerardo Versoza, general manager of the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco), said "zero reserve" means Transco would need to reduce the power load that reaches households in Luzon should a power generating plant break down.

To do this, Transco must shut down power in selected provinces to keep electricity flowing smoothly through the national power grid. This explains why blackouts have been occurring intermittently in the provinces, Versoza said.

'We want to know real score'

He said provincial power firms had not been officially informed about the plants in disrepair that triggered the Transco alert notice.

But officials of an IPP on Wednesday said that 11 power plants caused the power alert when they could not produce up to 3,012 megawatts (MW) needed by the national grid that day.

The memorandum was addressed only to Transco branch offices, the Department of Energy and Meralco, and was not released to power utilities covered by the alert, Versoza said.

But he said the alert covers power distribution firms nationwide. Beneco's copy, he said, was given to it by a Transco insider.

"[Electric cooperatives] want to know the real score. Why did they try to keep this from us?" Versoza said.

Back to normal?

Yesterday, the state-run National Power Corp. (Napocor) said the power situation in Luzon was back to normal, with the grid having supply reserves of between 300 MW and 600 MW.

Data from Napocor's power economics department showed that the Luzon grid yesterday had an available capacity of 6,397 MW in the morning, more than enough to supply the morning peak demand of 6,000 MW.

Total available capacity in the afternoon was placed at 6,642 MW, also enough to address the afternoon peak demand of 6,300 MW.

Luzon's power reserves stood at 397 MW in the morning and 342 MW in the afternoon. In the evening, reserves were even higher at 607 MW.

Despite the improving power situation, Napocor urged the public to conserve water and electricity, as the supplies of water and power remained tight.

Pray for rains

Things may take a turn for the worse because the dry spell in Luzon is expected to continue next month, a situation that could further cut the power supply from hydroelectric plants.

The weather bureau has advised the public to do the next best thing: Pray for more rain and conserve water.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has detected the development of two low pressure areas in the next seven days, but the rains would not be sufficient to augment the critical water level in Angat Dam.

Cause for alarm

Pagasa forecast the volume of rainfall next month to be less than 40 percent in Luzon, a trend that has prevailed in June and July.

If this trend continues throughout August, Pagasa would declare a drought in September, officials said.

"Is there cause for alarm? Definitely, yes, because there was a reduction in the rainfall amount in some areas in June by 40 percent. July, the same," Prisco Nilo, Pagasa deputy director for operations and services, said at a press conference.

"For August, some areas will still experience deficiency in rainfall. There will be a reduction of as much as 20 to 40 percent in the amount of rainfall," he said.

'Displaced' weather

In Cebu City, Nathaniel Cruz, chief of the forecasting department at Pagasa, said the weather remained "displaced" because there were no tropical cyclones that normally would have hit Luzon by this time.

"Instead of the wet season, we have a dry spell in Luzon. And it's raining in the Visayas and Mindanao [when these areas should be dry]," said Cruz.

Rainfall had been extremely low and only two instead of eight typhoons had entered the country since January, he said.

After weeks without rains, the water has dipped to critical levels in Angat, San Roque, Binga, Ambuklao, Magat and Pantabangan dams in Luzon, according to Pagasa.

Below capacity

The hydroelectric plant at Caliraya lake in Laguna is no longer working because of the low water level.

Because of lack of water, hydroelectric plants, including those at the Binga and San Roque dams, both in Benguet, have been generating at below capacity.

At the same time, the Team Energy Sual coal plant in Pangasinan has been operating at half capacity since last week because of its low coal supply. The Malaya Thermal Plant in Rizal also had to cut operations because it had no more coal.

The power outages prompted Sen. Rodolfo Biazon to suggest that the appointment of former Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to the energy department may not be a wise move.

Mitigation measures

Pagasa said the dry spell would lead to red tide, warmer air temperatures, decreased water supply, bush fires, and health problems.

To address these problems, the bureau recommended optimum water allocation and use, cloud-seeding, repair of dikes, adoption of water-impounding projects or shallow tube wells, and rehabilitation of deep wells and water harvesting facilities.

It also proposed water conservation, use of resistant crops with less water requirements, enhancement of irrigation efficiency, modified cropping calendar and reduction in leakages.

Acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales, who was also in Cebu, said President Macapagal-Arroyo instructed him yesterday to release two more planes for cloud-seeding operations.

In Manila, Anthony Golez, National Disaster Coordinating Council spokesperson, said the NDCC was launching an information drive on water conservation, global warming and climate change.

To avert a water crisis, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said it would need to pump an additional 100 million liters of water a day to its current capacity of 4,000 million liters a day.

Water rationing

But putting in the necessary facilities for the additional capacity would cost between P3 billion and P4 billion and would take up to two years to finish, according to MWSS Administrator Lorenzo H. Jamora.

"If a drought would be declared, we would resort to water rationing, meaning we have to cut services at certain hours of the day," Jamora said.

In the Senate, Sen. Loren Legarda renewed her call for a total logging ban, saying that the water and power shortage crisis was due to the destruction of forests.

The country's universities have offered to plant trees to revive the country's water supply. The Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) is set to embark on a massive tree-planting project this year. *With reports from Amy R. Remo, Dona Pazzibugan, Alcuin Papa, Beverly T. Natividad and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Jolene R. Bulambot Inquirer Visayas*

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Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation (Seascorp)

25 YEARS 'Steering the Lives of the Filipino Seafarers'

Messages

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION

I warmly congratulate the officers and staff of Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation Philippines (Seascorp), particularly Mr Romeo D. Dalusong, Seascorp president on the occasion of your company's 25th Founding Anniversary.

Twenty five years of continuous engagement in the business of sea manning, ship agency, marine consultancy, and ship repair is quite a feat, knowing how the maritime sector, like the other economic sectors of the country, has not remained unaffected by the leveling winds of change brought about by globalization, liberalization, and technological innovation. That Seascorp has not only survived but has become one of the most competitive maritime manning companies in the country today, attest to your resiliency and good business acumen. It is an achievement that should take center stage as you celebrate your 25 years in the business.

We, at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, congratulate you on this auspicious occasion. We are happy to let you know that as the government's regulatory arm in overseas employment, we strive to deliver our commitments to our stakeholders and social partners like Seascorp in terms of relevant and appropriate policies designed to steer your sector to greater performances levels so you would be able to compete with the best in the world. We have also committed ourselves to continually improve our system in the delivery of excellent service for the benefit of the publics that we serve. I hope you will have the strength of vision to continue working as one of our reliable and trustworthy partner in the sector.

Again, congratulations on your 25th Founding Anniversary!

ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS BALDOZ (Sgd.)
Administrator

MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

On behalf of the Maritime Industry Authority, our warmest greetings to the Officers and Staff of Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation, on the silver anniversary of your company's foundation.

For more than two decades Seascorp has provided the opportunity for thousands of Filipino seafarers to join the ranks of men and women dedicated to ensuring that the international maritime industry meets the increasing demands of world commerce. For more than two decades, your company has been instrumental in ensuring that competent Filipino seafarers stand at the helm of ships all over the world, making our seafarers, the "Seafarer of Choice".

For this worthy distinction, our congratulations and MABUHAY!!

VICENTE T. SUAZO
Administrator

FILIPINO ASSOCIATION FOR MARINERS' EMPLOYMENT, INC.

On behalf of the Filipino Association for Mariner's Employment, Inc. it is indeed a great pleasure for me to convey my heartiest felicitations and greetings to the Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation on the auspicious occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

I firmly believe that the existing bonds of our partnership will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of uplifting the maritime industry.

Truly, Seascorp deserved to be honored for their dedication and commitment to its vision of developing globally competitive and professionally trained seafarers.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a victorious celebration and hope that you will continue doing what you have started.

To the officers, management and staff of Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation, our congratulations for the job well done and more power!

ENGR SAMUEL T. LIM
President

SOUTHEAST ASIA SHIPPING CORPORATION

The Philippines has gained the distinction as the manning capital of the world. Filipino seafarers continue to be in demand for employment by foreign shipowners. Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation is proud to be a part of the manning sector as it continues to provide employment to world-class Filipino seafarers.

On behalf of the officers and staff of the company, I would like to express our profound and gratitude to all colleagues and associates for their assistance and support as we celebrate our 25th Founding Anniversary.

Thank You.

ROMEO D. DALUSONG
President

THE OFFICERS and staff of Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation

SOUTHEAST ASIA SHIPPING Corporation (Seascorp) celebrates its Silver Anniversary today. Two and a half decades ago, Seascorp was established to participate in the recruitment of seafarers for deployment to foreign vessels. It was a propitious moment. Shipping business was thriving worldwide, which created a huge demand for shipboard personnel. This opportunity for overseas employment has steered the Filipino seafarers to take the lead - and are still leading - because of their world-renowned traits - competent, hard working, trustworthy, and fluent in the English language. Joining the bandwagon on July 29, 1982, the company secured registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission to serve primarily as a manning agent to international shipping companies. In 1985, Seascorp was appointed the exclusive manning agent of a Saudi-British firm handling offshore and harbor operations at the King Fahad Industrial Port of Dammam, Jubail and Rastanura in Saudi Arabia, which tasked the company to deploy hundreds of seafarers during the term of the contract. This event advocated the company's expertise in the screening, selection, and hiring of certified seafarers in accordance with IMO standard regulatory and documentary requirements. Since then, it launched aggressive marketing campaigns that significantly commenced on active recruitment activities on behalf of Japanese ship owners in the Far East route. Through sheer hard work and determination, the company expanded its network of fulfilled clients including European, American, and other Asian principals.

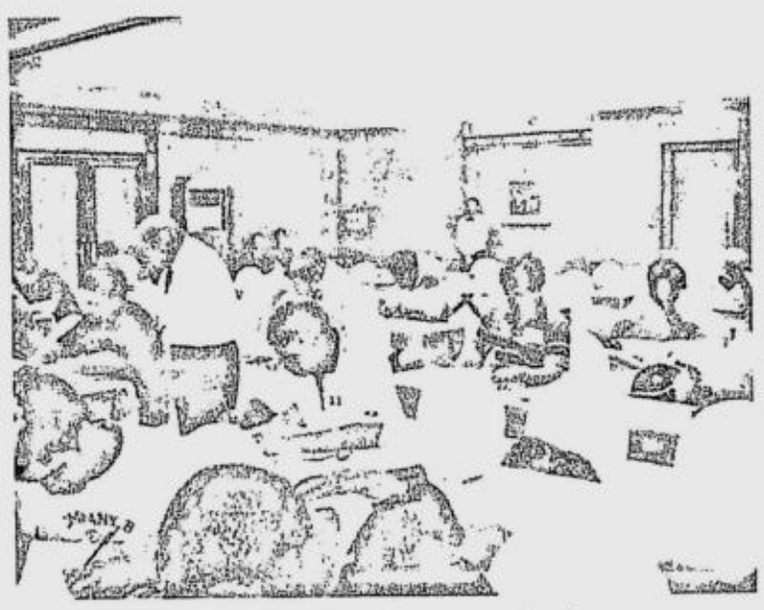
Today, Seascorp is re-certified with ISO 9001-2000 which proves its relentless commitment to customer service in continuously meeting - and even exceeding - the standards and requirements of the international shipping companies through this quality management system.

Seafarers are developed and highly trained under IMO-ISM-ISPSC and STCW as amended.

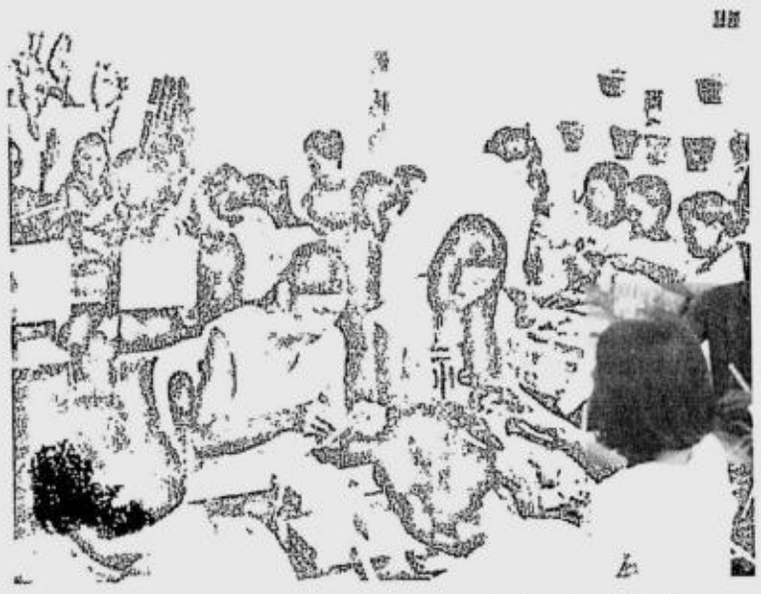
Staffed with energetic and driven professionals with commendable track record in the shipping industry and led by some of the pioneers in the industry, the company is raising the bar to a stronger performance which will provide successful professional development for the deserving Filipino seafarers that will eventually contribute to the ever-increasing remittance revenues for the government from the overseas Filipino workers and honor and recognition to our nation.

With this year's anniversary theme "Steering the Lives of the Filipino Seafarers", the company highlights its pivotal role as one of the leading manning agencies in the country for foreign vessels and its holistic approach in promoting a successful professional development and quality of life of its seafarers. At the same time, it symbolizes the company's redirection to a more concerned business entity leading to corporate social responsibility perpetuated by Filipino seafarers and their families who are happy, well-cared for and empowered, and through active involvement with the nation's top social concerns.

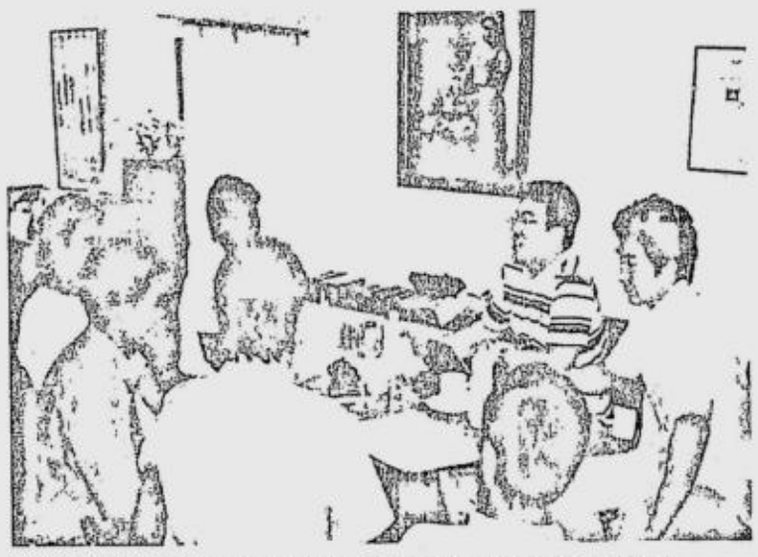
'With this year's anniversary theme 'Steering the Lives of the Filipino Seafarers', the company highlights its pivotal role as one of the leading manning agencies in the country for foreign vessels and its holistic approach. . .'



SEAFARERS taking an English proficiency examination



SEAFARERS' wives at work during Seascorp's Livelihood Training



Shipowners' representatives conducting a personal interview

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Loren feels alluded to as the 'she' in GMA Sona

By Dona Pazzibugan

WHILE PLAYING COY about her presidential ambitions, Sen. Loren Legarda claims to be the "she" among the possible successors that President Macapagal-Arroyo mentioned in her State of the Nation Address last July 23.

"*May iba pa bang* 'she'? (Is there any other she)?" said the beaming Legarda with a giggle as she went over the incident at a press forum yesterday.

"Did they think the President could have referred to any other woman contender?" asked Legarda of the journalists present.

During her lengthy enumeration of the various infrastructure projects that the administration is undertaking, the President said that it would be left for her successor to reap the harvest of her toil, "he or she will have an easier time of it."

This obviously stirred the presidential aspirants in the Sona crowd.

According to Legarda, she was seated between Senators Manuel Roxas II and Richard Gordon, two other so-called presidential contenders, and they all looked at one another upon hearing what Ms Arroyo said.

She remembers having remarked to the two other senators: "*May iba pa bang* 'she'?"

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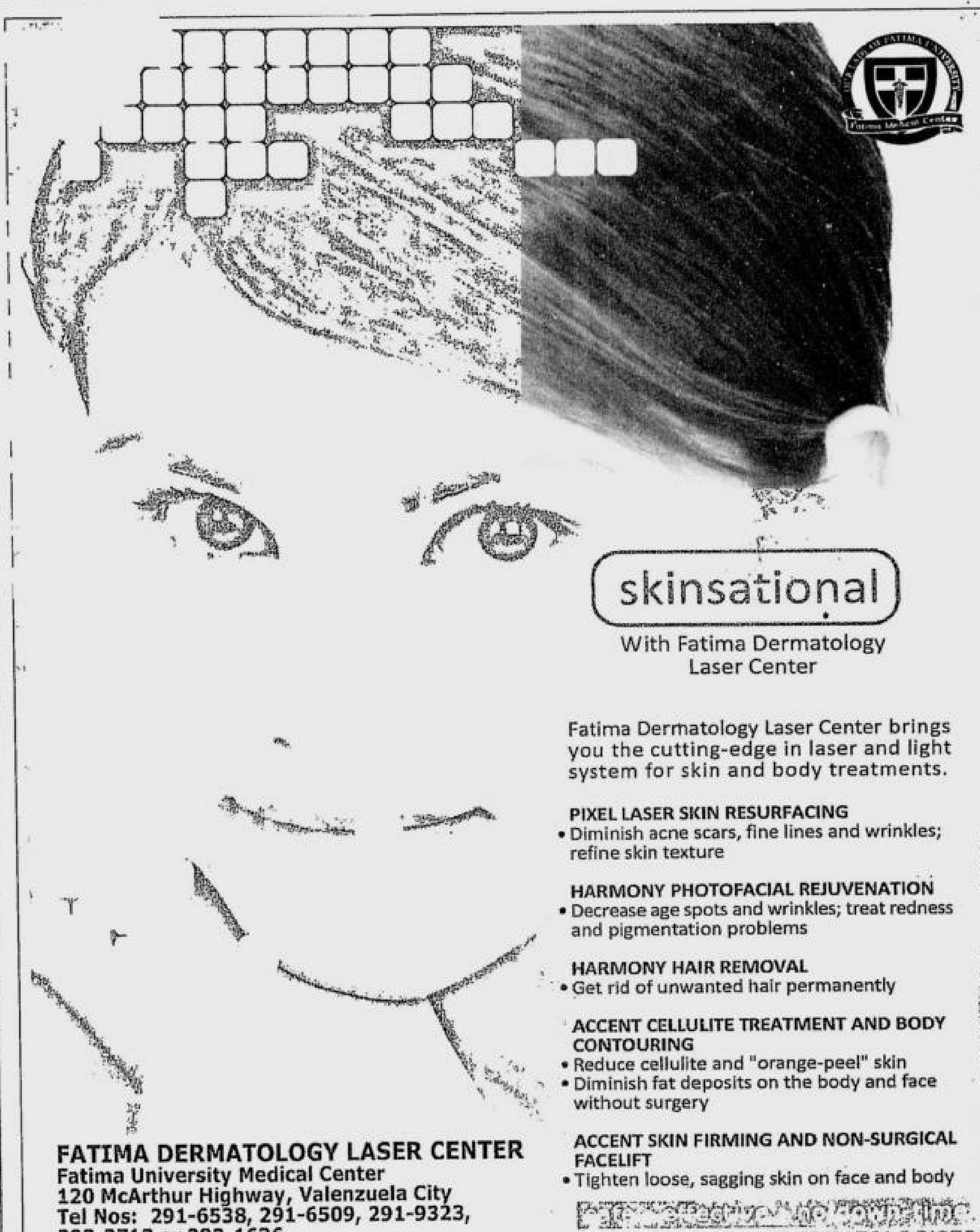
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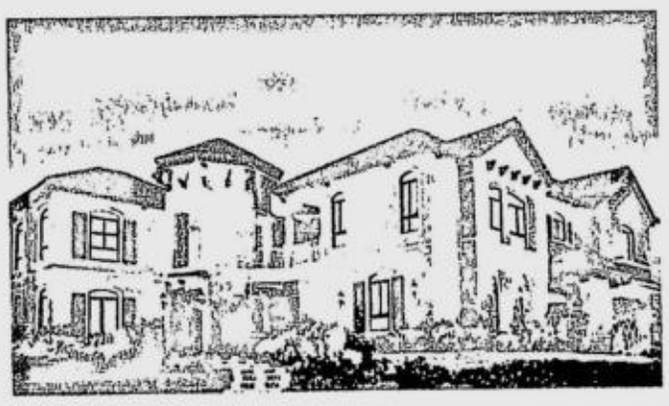

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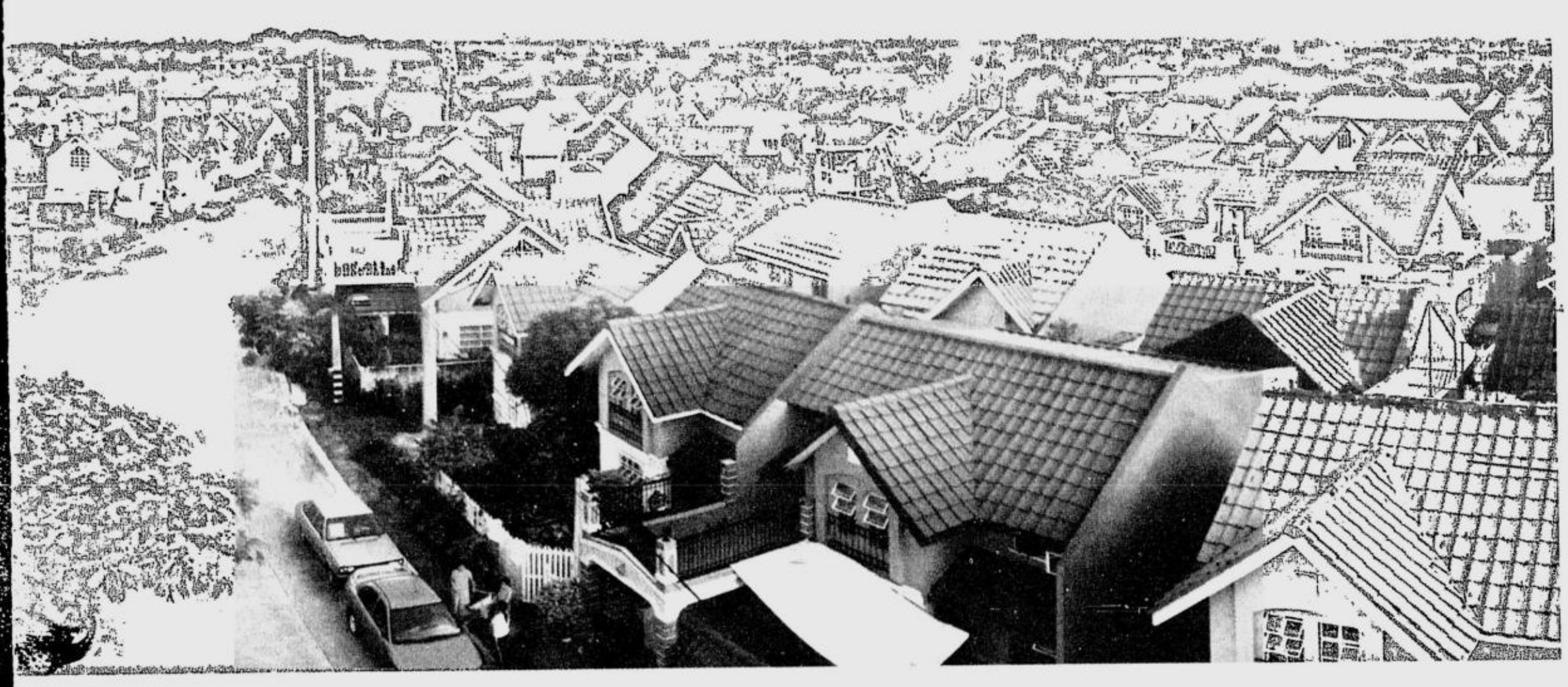

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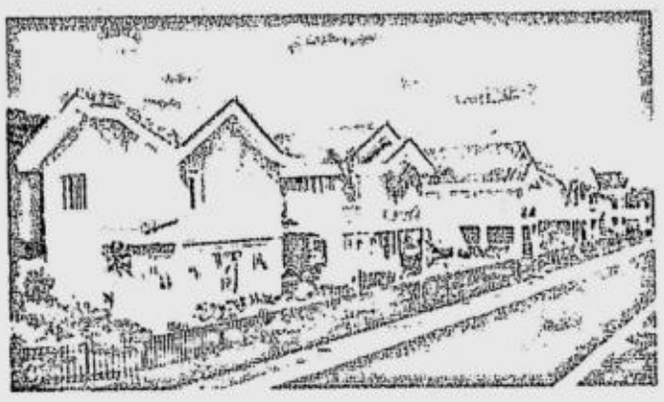

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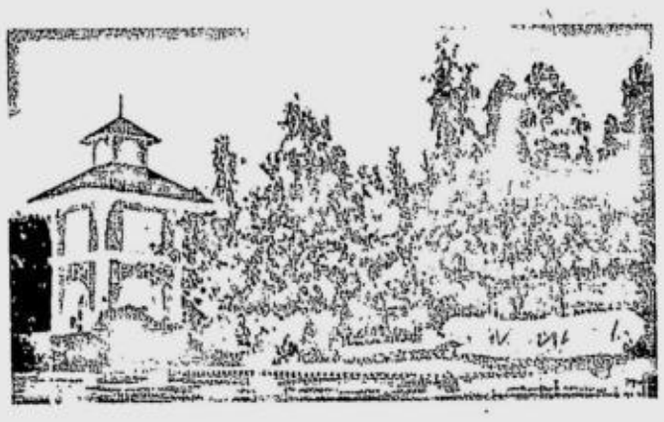

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Poisoned water

EDITORIAL

THREE LAWS, OF DIFFERENT PROVENANCE, weigh heavily in any consideration of the La Mesa watershed housing controversy: the law of gravity, the law of reason and, not least, the law of Murphy.

The proposed site for the 58-hectare housing project is located on the uppermost part of the watershed. As INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz reported earlier this week, the all-important reservoir, which supplies water to Metro Manila, lies below the housing site.

Given this crucial detail, the nightmare scenario he painted does not seem unrealistic at all: "rainwater will flow and seep down from the homes to the reservoir below. The toilets of the homes in ... the watershed will be connected to individual septic tanks under the ground. Waste water from the kitchens, bathrooms, laundries, gardens and the downspouts will flow on the surface to streams, creeks and rivers [and then down] to the reservoir. Thus, all the polluted water from the homes will flow, on the surface and underground, to the reservoir where the water Metro Manilans drink and use to wash and cook their food come from."

In other words, the law of gravity itself works against the project.

The proponents of the housing project, led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, contend that technology will solve water pollution, or indeed any problems related to the siting of the housing project. Last year, Lagman assured the public that "engineering mitigating measures" would be installed "to foreclose possible pollution of the La Mesa Dam and prevent the despoliation of the area."

When it comes to something as critical as water, however, it is best to assume that, if things can go wrong, it will go wrong. Murphy's Law, in other words.

It doesn't help that, in defending the cause of the environment, Sen. Jamby Madrigal is ready to use the slash-and-burn kind of political rhetoric. Construction of the housing project would lead to "genocide," she said the other day, and if President Macapagal-Arroyo allows it, she would be "killing more people than Hitler."

Yes, at least 12 million people depend on the La Mesa watershed for their water, but to suggest that millions of people would die from the inevitable contamination of the water supply is an unwarranted, an unsupportable, assertion. This kind of extravagant extrapolation of the possible consequences of the housing project makes opposition to the project sound irresponsible, unworthy of a serious response.

Now that would be unfortunate, and completely unnecessary. Because we do not need the vague specter of mass murder to justify opposition to the housing project. It is enough to posit, reasonably, the possibility of poisoning, of health standards violated, of public safety compromised. Even if poisoned water claims only one victim in the future, that is already reason enough to oppose construction.

What Murphy's Law tells us is that it is only a matter of time before we have our first victim.

It is important to understand that the La Mesa housing controversy is not a question of justice. Nobody wants to deny the members of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System union their housing project. But there are other areas, even inside the watershed, that can serve as the new site for the housing complex. And some beneficiaries have reportedly said they are amenable to relocation. The possibility of a reasonable compromise, therefore, exists.

The controversy is not a question of enforcement either. The 1975 Supreme Court decision upholding the MWSS union's position on the housing project—a concession won in collective bargaining agreement negotiations in 1968—is not contested. What is controversial is the change of location, from its original site in San Jose, Bulacan, the housing project was moved to inside the La Mesa watershed. It is only reasonable to expect that the change of location justifies another look at the decision.

By the law of reason, then, the state's commitment to the welfare of labor can coincide exactly with the state's commitment to the environment. Concretely, this means stopping construction of the housing complex, and then choosing another, safer site.

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GMAland vs the real Philippines

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I THINK PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is really preparing to step down as president (when is anybody's guess). Knowing that J.K. Rowling became a multi-millionaire by writing the Harry Potter fantasy series, she is now preparing for a new career as a writer of fantasy stories. I think her last State of the Nation Address is her first attempt in this genre. And if you ask me, she is good at it. Her Sona was pure fantasy.

The Sona is supposed to be a report by the President to Congress on the state of the nation at present. But the nation GMA painted in her Sona is not the Philippines at all. It is another world. As she described it, it is a land of milk and honey, not the real poverty-stricken Philippines, among the poorest in the world. GMA described a fantasy land. We can call it GMAland, another Disneyland.

In GMAland, there are five super regions (probably peopled by supermen) with thousands of kilometers of new roads and highways, new airports and seaports, new bridges, new irrigation systems, thousands of hectares of nurseries, new power plants, more roll-on-roll-off ports, more nature parks and watersheds, flood control and water conservation projects, etc. GMA even claimed credit for a bridge in Butuan started by the president she illegally pushed out of Malacañang, Joseph Estrada.

But this is the real Philippines: Farm-to-market roads are rutted, bridges and avenues lie abandoned and unfinished even in Metro Manila cities (example: Congressional Avenue in Quezon City, more than 10 years in the making and still unfinished). Interisland ships and Roro ferries sink with increasing frequency. Irrigation canals are silted and waterless. So many places are isolated, not reachable by road, sea or air vessels. Many airports cannot accommodate modern airplanes. Nurseries and mountainsides go up in flames every summer. Watersheds are "subject to private rights." As for flood control and water conservation projects, Metro Manila streets are flooded when it rains. At the same time, it is suffering from a water shortage even as the rainy season is upon it.

Here is GMAland: "The hunger rate has sharply gone down nationwide" (the words are those of the President).

Here is the real Philippines: What the nation is feeling is sharp pains in the stomach. According to a survey, more Filipinos are going hungry and poverty-stricken. The Philippines is rated as one of the poorest in the world. The homeless and squatters are everywhere. Beggars are everywhere even when the government has prohibited begging. Theft and robberies are rampant because the poor have to steal sometimes in order to survive.

GMAland: The unemployment rate has gone down.

The real Philippines: More and more Filipinos have to work abroad to support their families; there are no jobs for them at home. Thousands line up daily at recruitment centers hoping for non-existent jobs.

GMAland: Peace and order has improved.

The real Philippines: Almost every day, somebody is assassinated with impunity; almost every week somebody disappears, never to be found. Few suspects, fewer arrests, no trials, no convictions.

GMAland: Justice is working.

The real Philippines: Barely. The wheels of justice grind so slowly: cases take many years, even decades, to be finished by the courts. As a result, detention cells and prisons are overflowing; prisoners escape frequently.

GMAland: Graft and corruption is going down.

Ha, ha, ha!

* * *

Among the claims of accomplishments of GMA is a balanced budget. In a two-page newspaper advertisement, she said:

"Balanced budget

"• P978.7 billion in government revenues for 2006, P4.6 billion higher than its target of P974.1 billion

" • P76.9 billion additional revenue in 2006 following the restructuring of VAT."

Who was the revenue commissioner who collected these excess revenues? Why the BIR chief she just fired: Jose Mario Buñag. That's what poor Buñag got for collecting those revenues.

* * *

They never learn. Rich Filipinos keep getting swindled in pyramiding scams despite the fact that many such pyramiding companies folded up in the past, with the operators running away with hundreds of millions of pesos of investors' money. On the heels of Francswiss is the Performance Investment Philippines Corp. scam where a Singaporean national, Michael H.K. Liew, absconded with at least $250 million in investments from Filipinos. The investors have filed complaints against Liew and he is now being hunted by the Interpol.

But why are the investor-complainants afraid to identify themselves? One of them appeared on television with his face covered. How can they pursue their case against Liew if they do not come out? Is it because they are embarrassed to be victims of a swindle? Are they ashamed to be identified as gullible and greedy investors? It is only the gullible and greedy lusting for quick and big returns on their money, who get caught in these scams. There is poetic justice here: the poor never become victims of these scams.

But there are other reasons the investor-victims are afraid to be identified. Investing in offshore companies like the PIPC is sometimes used to launder money or evade taxes. Money laundering and tax evasion almost always go together. One does not hide his income by going around the Amla only to declare the same income to the BIR.

Also, investors in pyramiding chains recruit other investors. Besides the earnings on their investments, they get fat commissions for each successful referral. Thus, they also are agents and therefore liable when a pyramiding chain collapses. No wonder the investor-complainants are afraid to be identified.

Visionary . . . or 'capo di tutti i capi'?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

DURING HER STATE OF THE NATION Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo was at her technocratic best when she spoke of infrastructure projects in the provinces, and yet even then, she betrayed her true nature when, each time she mentioned a project, she would cite by name, with a glint in her eye and a pleased smile on her lips, each congressman, governor or mayor, who, I suppose, first promised the bridge, highway or pier to his constituents.

Will the true Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stand up please? Which is it really? The economist and visionary who thumbs her nose at the urban-based intelligentsia, who would "be rather right than popular" and thus chooses to focus on the practical needs of the provincial folk? Or is it the political patron, showing to all the rewards of loyalty and teaching a lesson or two to the next generation of willing flock? "Capo di tutti i capi" is mafia-talk for "boss of all bosses," used typically to refer to the de facto head of the most powerful family. Who were we listening to on Monday this week? The systems-thinking policy wonk, or the *capo* of this republic of mafia fiefdoms? The student of John Maynard Keynes, or the disciple of Nicolo Machiavelli?

It is easy to say that a Philippine president always has to be both, and in that, GMA would merely be a faithful reflection of the schizoid Filipino nation that, Garci says, elected her into office. Bright ideas thought up by Manila-based experts cannot prosper without the cooperation of the village chiefs or their town or provincial chieftains. Yet that only shows us the dark side of an infrastructure-based Sona: each mammoth engineering project would have entailed equally humongous graft. In other words, those beaming faces you all saw on TV must have had a million reasons to celebrate—and we should be happy if, after pocketing the bulk of the funds, they used the remaining loose change to actually build the project.

More than that, perhaps the numbers were deceiving. For example, she said that the roll-on-roll-off network of roads and boat ferries from Mindanao to Luzon has cut down the cost of transporting vegetables and meat, from P32,000 per truck from Dapitan to Batangas to barely one-third at P10,000. One wonders: Given the number of invisible rent-seekers along the way—each check-point, each pier, each revenue officer—would that not add up to much more than P10,000?

The President's Achilles heel is governance. That problem was embedded in her glowing economic report. That problem is at the core of her "terrorism and human rights" report.

Confronted with the unrelenting wave of political killings, calling it a "stain on our democratic record," she shifts the burden to Congress to pass more laws. Yet when she closes her Sona with the lines, "Ang inyong lingkod, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas," she must remember that the Pangulo is at once the commander in chief. She doesn't need a new law to run after rogue soldiers. She doesn't need a new law to punish those who murder unarmed civilians in their homes and in the streets. She doesn't need new laws to guarantee the swift arrest of murderers.

She has immense powers as the commander in chief and as the chief executor of our laws, and she has shown little hesitation to use them when she wanted to in the past. To use her own words: "[A] president is always as strong as she wants to be." Why suddenly does she not want to be strong in running after the cold-blooded executioners of Left-wing activists? Why does she feign helplessness when she is the commander in chief who last year issued a virtual copy of Marcos' Proclamation 1081 proclaiming martial law, this time dressed up as Proclamation 1017 declaring a state of emergency?

Is it possible, after the Alston report to the United Nations and the Melo Commission report to the President, and after more than a year of almost weekly killings, that there is not a single prosecution, not a single conviction? Our only conclusion is that when the victims come from outside her mafia family, this President has chosen to be as weak as she can be.

Yet that was the most applauded line of her entire address: "From where I sit, a president is always as strong as she wants to be." I grant that the standing ovation was genuine, not scripted. I grant that the cheering was broad-based and not narrowly drawn from apple-polishing partisans. I grant that the support in the gallery reflects the acclaim outside, but for the parliament of the streets. And for this we've got to hand it to GMA and her handlers.

They know what ails the Filipino soul, and know only too well how to manipulate those flaws. The Filipino wants a strong leader who will deliver results, and they wager that the Filipino will make the Faustian bargain and trade his liberties for a more prosperous life.

The danger is when a leader speaks like a visionary and acts like a street-smart operator. When that happens, the grand programs become nothing but legal and ideological cover for rent-seeking opportunities doled out to the local warlords. Policy programs are compromised in day-to-day horse-trading with local powers and sycophants. And even her duties as commander in chief and the main enforcer of the laws are selectively exercised to protect her own, punish her foes and allow her foes' aboveground supporters to be wantonly slaughtered.

The 2007 Sona showed the Machiavellian masquerading as visionary, and those who applaud her selective use (and non-use) of her powers to protect her own against outsiders better beware whose turn it is next at the hangman's noose.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

A Faustian bargain

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

(Last of two parts)

NO STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS DELIVERED by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the past seven years has devalued the intrinsic worth of the presidential word more than the one of July 23.

Sona 7 was so puffed up with the vision of a country transformed into a First World economy in 20 years that, on closer examination, it proved to be not worth the weight of the paper on which it was printed.

The speech unveiled a P1.7-trillion infrastructure package to implement the promised 2006 five "super-regions" development program, sprinkling the country with projects from Aparri to Jolo. These super regions are touted to drive the conversion of the economy into a mighty engine of growth to catch up with Asia's dynamic economies in just two decades.

The vision of Sona 7 and its time frame for completion so stretched credulity that it prompted questions, such as where the money will come from to bankroll the program. The day after the Sona, projection was spiked by Fitch Ratings, an international credit rating agency, which said: "In the absence of a significant improvement in tax collection, it will not be possible for the Philippine government to implement its ambitious and much-needed infrastructure development." It added that the revenue collection shortfall would, in turn, "jeopardize the country's medium-term economic growth and ultimately its sovereign credit worthiness."

Fitch's assessment contradicted the statements of Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves who assured that government has the money for the projects. They said outlays for the Sona projects have been provided for in the proposed 2008 budget of P1.227 trillion. The next budget is still up in the air. It will be submitted to the House of Representatives on Aug. 24. The Sona seeks to bankroll the P1.7-trillion infrastructure program from the expected P1.118-trillion state revenues and tax reforms.

Fitch is skeptical of these projections. It expects the budget deficit this year to swell to P125 billion from P64.8 billion in 2006, because of the revenue collection shortfall. The government aims to cut the deficit to P63 billion this year, but Fitch pointed out: "Year-to-date tax collection in June 2007 was about P52 billion below official targets, and increased by only 3.4 percent over 2006. This is particularly a disappointing result, given last year's positive fiscal momentum and strong economic growth in the first half of 2007."

Against these contradicting assessments, the picture we get is that the foundation upon which the Sona vision of a Philippine Shangri-La is built on two assumptions, both of them pies in the sky. The realization of the infrastructure program in 20 years depends on expected revenue collection. Sona 7 has offered a promise of an economic paradise in 20 years in exchange for domestic peace and the more immediate prospects of a coercive political environment in the remaining three years of the Arroyo presidency. This is an extremely one-sided tradeoff that gives little in terms of short-term economic benefits, at least through poverty alleviation, in exchange for the immediate curtailment of political liberties.

With the flick of a sorcerer's wand, the President tried to shortchange the Filipino people by offering uncertain promises of prosperity in exchange for reducing their political liberties. This trade-off contradicts academic studies showing democratization is not incompatible with economic development. These studies are based on the development experience in Southeast Asia during three decades of redemocratization from the 1970s.

In this tradeoff, Sona 7 tried to turn the clock back to the era of the hard authoritarianism in Asia epitomized by Suharto in Indonesia, Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia and Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore. In 1972, Ferdinand Marcos tried to bring the Philippines in step with these prototypes as a latecomer in the Southeast Asian authoritarian club.

In Sona 7, Ms Arroyo tried to revive this Faustian bargain by offering a delusionary prosperity in exchange for reduced political liberties threatened by the launching of the Human Security Act days earlier.

The Sona slammed the door on the Supreme Court-convened summit recommendations calling on the President to order state security forces to halt the wave of extrajudicial executions. Although Congress gave a place of honor to Chief Justice Reynato Puno during the delivery of the Sona, the gesture turned into tokenism when the President acknowledged the summit's resolutions with a mere paragraph in the compendious speech.

The reference bristled with contempt with this passage: "We fight terrorism. It threatens our sovereign democratic, compassionate and decent way of life. Therefore, in the fight against lawless violence, we must uphold these values. It is never right and always wrong to fight terror with terror."

On human rights, she asked Congress to enact laws to "transform state response to political violence," including laws to "impose harsher penalties for political killings," and laws "reserving the harshest penalties for the rogue elements in the uniformed services who betray public trust." This declaration shifts the onus to Congress to pass more laws, when the moment calls less for laws and more for emphatic action from the executive branch.

This washing of the hands offers little hope that the killings will stop. It underscores even more sharply the emptiness of the economic promise of the tradeoff dangled by the Sona.

Speaking up and breaking the silence

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN "INTERVENING TO STOP VIOLENCE AND Empower Women and Children: Selected Cases of Good Practice" (UP Center for Women's Studies Foundation and DOH, 2002), editors Sylvia H. Guerrero and Jenny Romero-Llaguno, compile case studies of successful centers, projects and approaches that sought to alleviate, if not eliminate, violence against women and children.

In their introduction, Guerrero and Llaguno note that "although there have been legislative initiatives and programs to curb VAW (violence against women), given the magnitude of the problem and the cultural and historical roots of gender-based violence, the results have been extremely limited."

Among the case studies included is that of "Bantay Banay," a community-based approach to curbing VAWC that began in Cebu and has since expanded to the rest of the country. I once talked with a group of urban poor women and asked how the establishment of a "Bantay Banay" unit in their barangay has affected the health and safety of women and children in their locale. They told me that ever since abusers discovered that their neighbors were watching them closely and were not afraid to report them to authorities, incidents of violence against women and children subsided dramatically.

* * *

THIS made a lot of sense to me. VAWC, after all, flourishes mainly because perpetrators think they can get away with it. Abuse of women and children is not just tolerated in communities, with many neighbors preferring to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to its occurrence, but even encouraged, with abusers experiencing no social disapproval or legal punishment.

This is why I was so heartened by the news report, which I wrote of earlier this week, in which the abusive parents of two dead boys had been reported to police by neighbors, who willingly testified on the acts of violence that they had witnessed. I don't know if this signals a wave of community awareness and action against abuse in the home, and if a decade-long campaign has managed to "expose the myths and the untruths about the home and the family as the haven of love and support." What I hope will happen, though, is that national agencies and NGOs will build from this seed of action planted in that Pasig neighborhood and replicate it systematically and thoroughly.

* * *

FOR "Break the Silence: Aid for AIDS," a benefit concert for the Remedios AIDS Foundation, Bong Austero, president of the Remedios Board of Trustees, was supposed to deliver the welcome remarks. But that day, the Remedios staff called me, as the BOT vice president, to ask if I could speak in Bong's behalf. Later, Bong himself would call to explain that the bank, where he heads the human resources department, was celebrating its anniversary and, of course, he had to be present there.

I scribbled some notes, but because some concert-goers asked for a copy of my talk, here's my attempt at making sense from the rough draft:

We have come here tonight not just to "break the silence" surrounding HIV and AIDS.

We have come here also to "break the ignorance." Outside, Remedios staff have been giving out materials on HIV/AIDS, VCT or voluntary counseling and testing, reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections, and I hope we all take time to read, study and comprehend the contents.

We have come here to "break the denial," with government agencies smugly declaring that the spread of AIDS in the Philippines is "low and slow," when in fact it is "hidden and growing," with Bong remarking that in fact the rates of HIV infection in the country have tripled over the last decade.

We have also come here to "break the indifference," which is evident in the drastic cuts in funding for both public and private efforts on HIV/AIDS, including care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, research, education and counseling.

* * *

BUT we have come also to build up. We are here to build up our spirits and our resolve, to build up our awareness, knowledge and sense of activism on the issue of HIV/AIDS.

We have come here to build up our community—our rapidly dwindling community of AIDS activists and service providers, as well the rapidly expanding community of people living with HIV/AIDS, including those who have tested positive for HIV as well as their friends, families and loved ones.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge everyone who lent their support to this concert: our major sponsors Amkor Technology, and the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines; row sponsors PHANSup, the Philippine Center for Population and Development, Pollo Negro, and Bayer; marketing partners Coca-Cola, One White Tea and TicketWorld; our media partners Manila Bulletin, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Manila Times, Magic 89.9, Business Mirror, Icon, and FHM; and our event partner, Thinking Cap Inc., whose staff labored these past months to conceptualize this event and work with tonight's performers. A special note of thanks to all the artists who donated their time, talent, energy and compassion to stage the show.

Tonight, we hope to give you inspiration and hope, and, despite the daunting obstacles we face, a sense of the possible. Together, we will be able to see a world not free from AIDS, for that will not happen in the foreseeable future, even if a positive finding of HIV infection is no longer the "death sentence" it once was. Rather, we hope to create a world free from bigotry, from homophobia, from judgmental attitudes on sex and sexuality, from ignorance, and free from the casual cruelty of those who lash out at everything they do not understand or have not experienced.

Together, let us all work for that world!

(I'll be reviewing "Break the Silence" in Sunday's column.)

Unresolved controversies

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

READERS WERE AMUSED BY THE LAST COLumn regarding the exact number of islands in the Philippines. One sent an e-mail suggesting that one way to explain the discrepancy in the number of islands in our archipelago is that we have a dispute with neighboring countries over some islands like the Spratlys. The fact remains that if we are to study the physical aspects of the Republic of the Philippines from the present textbooks, we are far from having an authoritative number or an educated guess on the number of islands—high tide or low tide/with or without the Spratlys—in the Philippines. I would like to think that history being a slippery discipline, open to interpretation of the sources in some cases, we should have something common to either believe in or question.

Gregorio Zaide's books were much maligned when I was a student. We were told to avoid Zaide at all costs, and I don't even know why I purchased his two-volume "Pageant of Philippine History." Perhaps the books were on sale and I could not resist the hard-cover, book paper edition. I also don't know why I opened Zaide one day, over a decade after I had acquired the set. But when I read his chapter on the Philippine Revolution, I asked myself why I had listened to teachers who told me not to read Zaide. I presume his elementary and high school textbooks only provide the so-called "minimum" or "desired learning competencies," but the two-volume work was meant either for a college student or a general-interest reader.

What caught my attention was the extended footnote that accompanied Zaide's narration of the spark that led to the Philippine Revolution of 1896. While he gave a date and place in his narrative, the footnote acknowledged the different dates given for the so-called "Cry of Balintawak." Another footnote gave all the other contenders as the site of this historical event, aside from the traditional Balintawak. Zaide's work may be faulty in part, but I would like to think that it was the best that he could produce, given his sources and the circumstances of his time. Furthermore, I'd like to believe nobody would willfully and purposely peddle errors, so Zaide should not be judged on hindsight, but then that is the way the historiographical cookie crumbles.

I tell my students that history is a humbling discipline because we are only as good as our sources and our time. Fifty years from now, there will probably be another columnist in this space who will probably say Ambeth Ocampo was an idiot. One can only hope that the next generation, who will hopefully know more than us, will temper their judgment.

To return to Pedro Gagelonia's "Controversial Issues in Philippine History," which I discussed in the last column, it will be seen from the table of contents that the coverage is from pre-colonial times to the early 20th century. That is about a thousand years of history, and yet the bulk of the book covers the Spanish period and, of course, the events of the late 19th century: the Revolution and the Filipino-American War.

Although we see the formation of the nation in the context of the struggle for independence in the years 1896-1899, aren't we looking at history in a skewed way? So many thoughts come to mind when you see the outline of Philippine history as it is taught in schools.

Fortunately, Gagelonia does not fall into the endless ideological debates on who should be National Hero, Rizal or Bonifacio? Then there is the more complicated issue of whether Rizal retracted or not. At best the book ends with the assassination of Antonio Luna and the case of Andres Bonifacio. However, it is disappointing that after pointing out these "controversial" issues in our history, Gagelonia played safe by keeping his opinion to himself. Maybe it is unfair of me to ask that an author write differently, but, rightly or wrongly, some conclusions must be drawn and hypotheses offered. One cannot just expose controversy and leave it hanging as Gagelonia does in the closing paragraph on his exposition on the death of Luna:

"The controversy over the death of Luna continues to rage, and shall perhaps have no end at all. Be that as it may, Luna has been accepted by the Filipino as one of the greatest heroes, and whether or not the accounts of his death are partisan or biased, they will not suffice to diminish his greatness in the eyes of the Filipino people."

That is the only conclusion in 36 pages of promising text that began with a challenge, "Each time historians fail to come to an agreement on any aspect of Philippine historiography, they unknowingly sow a lot of confusion and conflict in the minds of students of history. Apparently this is the case in the historic assassination of General Antonio Luna." Gagelonia's book holds much promise, so it is unfortunate that it generates a lot of heat but very little illumination.

Filipinos love controversy, but we often get derailed by the fireworks, leaving issues unresolved. Controversies in history are interesting in themselves, but we should not lose sight of the fact that these are only the beginning, not the end, of our understanding of the past.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Folk knowledge

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IS THERE ANY SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE BELIEF THAT mushrooms emerge after thunderstorms? What about the belief that planting fruit crops at early dawn increases the chances for larger fruits?

A book published back in 1998 by the University of the Philippines' Institute for Science and Mathematics Development (now Nismed, the "N" for "National") reviews the empirical basis for such beliefs and practices from agriculture, fishing, food and nutrition and medicine. I'll get back to the mushrooms and planting in a while, but let me first talk about the book's focus, captured in its title: "Philippine Folk Science: A Sourcebook for Teachers."

I bought the book many years back and remembered it recently while preparing a paper for a conference organized by the International Organization for Science and Technology Education (IOSTE). Appropriately, UP Nismed hosted the conference, which had sustainable development as its theme. I was requested to deliver a paper on the relationship of culture to science education and sustainable development.

Culture and knowledge

As a medical anthropologist, I've been training medical students and physicians to become culturally sensitive in their clinical practice. The IOSTE request was somewhat more challenging, but the links were still fairly easy to make. Sustainable development means development in a way that does not jeopardize future generations. That does become a challenge especially because our development models have always emphasized massive consumption of resources. It was presumed that the more you consume, the more rapid the development.

When sustainable development came around, science educators found out that they had to rethink their curriculum. Can you do "modern" science using smaller-scale technologies? Maybe even more radically (and this was where my presentation came in), can we return to local beliefs and practices—the ones so often labeled as "backward" and "primitive"—to advance science?

For several decades now, even before sustainable development came into vogue, anthropologists have been exploring "indigenous knowledge" (yes, with its own abbreviation, IK), arguing that such knowledge has much to offer. Some of the earliest work around IK was conducted in the Philippines by anthropologists. In 1957, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization published a book, "Hanunoo Agriculture," by Harold Conklin, describing the agricultural practices of the Hanunoo, an ethnic group living in Mindoro. Conklin documented the Hanunoo's vast knowledge of their natural environment, which they applied to shifting agriculture or *kaingin*.

I'm sure some readers reacted to that word, thinking immediately about soil erosion and destructive floods. But *kaingin* need not be destructive. When populations were smaller and people had access to large tracts of land, they knew how to move from one part of their land to another, planting in some plots and allowing others to rest. It was a system that worked, with its own IK.

This is a good time to return to the examples I gave at the beginning of this column. Why the field of mushrooms after thunderstorms? Because the sudden downpour causes dormant mushroom spores, already in the soil, to germinate. The lightning fixes atmospheric nitrogen, which, when it reaches the earth, is used as a nutrient by the growing mushrooms.

And planting at dawn? The authors of "Philippine Folk Science" say it makes sense because that's when soil is moist and solar radiation is low.

Folk science

"Philippine Folk Science" was compiled by a team of Filipino scientists that included Dr. Vivien Talisayon, dean of the UP College of Education and one of the convenors of the IOSTE conference. She told me that some Western scientists dislike terms like "folk science," pointing out that "science is science."

They do have a point. You have science when people formulate a hypothesis (in Tagalog, *kutob*) that is tested by observation and experimentation, and when they're open enough to revise those hunches based on empirical evidence.

Business corporations have always been quick to recognize the value of folk science and IK, sending expeditions out to remote areas to gather information about medicinal plants, food crops and other natural products that have commercial potential.

In my IOSTE presentation, I reminded the science educators that tapping into IK isn't a matter of extracting knowledge, it's also being open to new ways of looking and thinking. Paul Sillitoe, in his book "Local Science vs Global Science," points out that Charles Darwin got some of his ideas about evolution from the natives of the Galapagos Islands. The natives could tell which islands tortoises and finches (a type of bird) came from, by looking at parts of their anatomy. Darwin realized, from those observations, that the anatomical differences were actually adaptations to different environments.

In recent years, there has been an explosion of interest in traditional "wellness" practices. The example I gave at the IOSTE meeting was Buddhist meditation. Formerly scoffed at as a faddish practice that worked only on the gullible, meditation is now the subject of research by neurologists and psychologists. Monks are wired up with electrodes so researchers can figure out what goes on in their brains and their bodies as they meditate. The studies show there are very real physiological changes during meditation, with many favorable effects. The most startling are findings that meditation (and, we know now, mental exercises) allows the central and autonomic nervous systems to "regenerate" or compensate for damaged parts. Medical scientists now talk about "neuroplasticity" or how the nervous system can be trained and exercised to prevent or slow down dementia and senility.

I don't want to romanticize all that indigenous knowledge; certainly, there are many irrational beliefs that persist, but you find them as well among "modern" scientists, even with doctorate degrees, who stubbornly cling on to outdated theories.

Science—"indigenous" or "modern"—thrives best in an environment where there is dialogue and peer review. At the UP College of Medicine, I've convinced professors not to use terms like "primitive" and "superstitious" to refer to folk practices. We're making some progress there, a recent example being a group of medical students looking into "*pasma*," a folk illness. I'm going to describe their fascinating findings next month.

Yes, "Philippine Folk Science" is still available at UP, but I hope we'll see more publications of that type. IK and folk science consist of accumulated experiences through several generations that need to be validated, but the first step is to rediscover them, together with our young so they take pride as well in things local. Unless we do that, we'll lose all that knowledge, together with all their potential contributions to sustainable development.

Somebody's sleeping on the job

LETTERS

FOR SIX YEARS NOW, I HAVE been buying bottled water for my growing child to make sure there would be no heavy metals and chemicals or toxins in her drinking water, which can adversely affect her growth and mental development. Her report card in the last two years averaged 99 percent and 96 percent.

Now I am outraged to learn that quite possibly I had been introducing poison in her diet, which included formalin-laced fruits from China or some other country. How can anyone let this happen in our country?

Some people must be sleeping on their jobs. There must be 10,000 other people in the unemployed/fresh graduate sector who can replace these invalids. Either someone is making a fast buck in some government-run bureau, or someone isn't doing his duty to protect the health of this country's citizens. In any case, the proof is in my refrigerator. Anyone who wants to launch a class action suit against anyone on this matter, he has my full support and cooperation.

I say, let's stop importing from countries that do not control or monitor these things. Someone should get fired for allowing this slow murder of the Filipino population—and all for what? Money? I am totally disgusted and outraged. I say hell knows no fury than an angry parent!

—ERIC GUTIERREZ,
ericag_ph@yahoo.com

Not for retirees

MAY I EXPRESS MY delight and thanks to Ramon J. Farolan for citing my eCard experience in his July 23 column titled "Manila teachers want out of GSIS."

I had written in frustration over the Government Service Insurance System's inaction on my delayed pension. However, in fairness to the GSIS, it eventually addressed the problem, and I hope my eCard would henceforth be useful and prompt in its monthly remittance. Thanks to the GSIS.

Let me point out, though, that the saying "Better late than never" must not apply to poor, old, sickly retirees whose monthly pension must never be late.

—DR. ESTELA GARCIA,
28 June St., Congressional Village, Quezon City

Migrante disconnected from real world

MIGRANTE'S CONNIE BRAGAS-Regalado once again rails against the "US-Arroyo regime." (INQUIRER, 7/21/07)

First of all, her rhetoric is straight out of Karl Marx's "Das Kapital." Her old-style, "Mickey Maoist" catch-phrases, such as "enemy of the people," "struggle against the anti-migrant Arroyo regime," "draconian and fascist tool" and so on, remind me of the Cold War era. Can anyone help Regalado update her MS Word thesaurus, please?

Communism—once a fashionable, pie-in-the-sky, polar star ideal for some—is now a dead dog. But apparently for others in the Philippines, it is still a living lion. Regalado's quotes are as germane to our highly technological, computerized society as a *calesa* on a Naia runway.

Second, which "anti-migrant fascist tool" is she criticizing? I've seen nothing but encouragement and congratulations from President Macapagal-Arroyo to the countless millions of Filipinos who've been forced by complicated circumstances into the sad diaspora that keeps this country—a nation always skirting the edge of financial catastrophe—barely afloat.

Ms Arroyo is not perfect; far from it. She frequently makes confusing and counterintuitive moves. I can't even say I like her. But we'll see in 2010 if any other big mouth, do-nothing candidate can do better.

When Regalado looks at the world from her ivory tower, she sees nothing but dark and menacing foreign strangers who appear to have nothing but blood lust and mean spirits; who have no respect or kind regard for the average overseas Filipino worker who sweats for them. And this "patriotic and progressive individual" really does not know what to make of all this "conspiracy" arrayed against the "indignant workers," except to increase her volume of hot air.

This lady's misplaced anger apparently doesn't extend to offering her *kababayans* the slightest protection from exploitation right in her own backyard. What does Regalado's organization pay its employees? Minimum wage for the cleaner? What kind of car does she use? Does her personal office have an air-con? Does she do anything at all for the desperate ones barely staying alive on her very street? How much has she donated to charities?

For that matter, does she have a kind word and deed for any Filipino prisoners in the Philippines?

Idealism increases in direct proportion to one's distance from the problem. Go ahead, continue to look the other way (abroad) and ignore your own country's failings, especially when your concrete help for those in local jails would do so much, for so many, and so easily.

Excuse me for quoting from Matthew 7:3-5: "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

—WES WRIGHT,
Angeles City,
divingfinatic@yahoo.com

Not all agree with Inquirer about the President

RE ITS JULY 23 EDITORIAL "ARROYO'S LEGACY," the INQUIRER again alleged that the Arroyo administration was guilty of election cheating. The INQUIRER should know that not everybody shares its opinion.

If Team Unity cheated in the elections, how come most of its candidates lost? Get the point? The INQUIRER should open its mind a little bit, please. I believe that Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri is innocent. Just like Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, he just wanted to see that the results of the election were counted. Don't disparage Zubiri's victory.

Whatever wrong was done in the last elections should be proven through due process. If we allow anybody, like the critics, to just dictate what to do, we will have chaos.

—ROMEO YBAÑEZ,
36F Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
brut_999@yahoo.com.ph

Philippine Army caught by its mouth

FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW, RELATIVES and friends of Jonas Burgos have been looking for him. They asked the Army to bring him out. The Army denied that it was responsible for Jonas' disappearance. Media took up the cudgels and pressed the Army for his whereabouts.

The pressure was strong and relentless; it forced the Army chief to say that Jonas was a member of the New People's Army. Apparently, that caused his disappearance. An army spokesman supported his chief's allegation against Jonas.

Do Army intelligence and other members of the general staff have Jonas in the OB (order of battle) of the NPA?

The implication of Jonas' disappearance is clear. The fish is caught by its mouth.

—MAJ. GEN. FORTUNATO U. ABAT (ret.),
fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

TVI presumes wrongly

I READ THE LETTER OF ROCKY DIMACULangan, director for public affairs of TVI Resources Development. ("TVI explains side on Canatuan mining row," INQUIRER, 7/5/07)

He was obviously reacting to the reported human rights violations which the company has been accused of. In his letter, Dimaculangan defended his employer by attacking me, my tribe and our sacred mountain. Dimaculangan's letter betrays the mind-set of the mining industry.

TVI has been in our ancestral domain for only 13 years and yet its employees, like Dimaculangan, have readily arrogated unto themselves the authority to identify who our tribal leaders are and which ancestral grounds are hallowed to us. In those 13 years, TVI security forces have declared themselves as the sole authority that can decide on who among the Subanons can "enter" Mt. Canatuan. For example, they ask me to produce a permit or gate pass to enter my own tribe's domain. They have accosted and hurt my daughter for traversing "TVI roads."

I understand Dimaculangan's gall in claiming that Mt. Canatuan is not sacred. One cannot hold something sacred if his pay depends on that something being ravaged. The same holds true for Dimaculangan's so-called tribal leaders, who he claims gave their consent in exchange for royalties and employment.

Perhaps, Dimaculangan has not been informed that his superiors Yulo Perez, TVI's vice president for operations, and Feliz Yeban, TVI's vice president for social commitment, refer to me as "Timuay" (tribal chief), especially now that TVI has applied for a license to expand its operations inside our ancestral domain. Our traditional tribal leadership structure is the one recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. As such, our tribal council's "free, prior and informed consent" is needed by TVI for its planned expansion.

Last June 17, Yeban came to woo our council at the tribal hall of the Apu Manglang Glupa Pusaka, where I hold court as the direct blood descendant of Apu Manglang. In asking for our consent, she asked forgiveness for the human rights violations that TVI committed in the past and promised that such abuses will not happen again.

Dimaculangan should be guided accordingly.

—TIMUAY JOSE BOY ANOY,
tribal chieftain,
Apu Manglang Glupa Pusaka,
Barangay Candiz, Siocon,
Zamboanga del Norte

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Sand quarry income: ₱20M in 20 days

TRUCKS and heavy equipment haul out sand from the deposits of Mt. Pinatubo. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—LEADERS OF A PRIVATE sector-led quarry watchdog have recommended the use of electronic transactions and computerized monitoring to protect the sand industry from corruption.

The move, proposed by traders in an open forum at the launch of the Task Force for Progressive Pampanga (TFPP) on Wednesday, came as collections showed that sand quarrying was becoming to be the single biggest source of local tax in Pampanga.

On Wednesday, quarry revenues reached P20 million, which was P9 million away from the P29.1 million collected in 2006 under the administration of former Gov. Mark Lapid, a report from the provincial capitol showed.

Rene Romero, chair of the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon that convened the task force, said a research and monitoring committee would study the recommendations.

Two volunteers, including the business processing outsourcing firm CyberCity Teleservices, have begun studying possible systems.

Initial ideas include making quarry operators pay directly to the depository bank of the provincial government by swiping ATM (automated teller machine) cards.

Another is the use of digital cameras along roads to record the license plates of trucks. Still another is the use of a computer-linked weigh bridge to measure the volume of sand hauled out of the province.

Real-time reporting of revenues on Internet is another.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, the speaker during the launch, said the application of modern technology in the quarry system would be incorporated in the proposed ordinance.

That ordinance, he said, would institute a system not prone to graft. The next provincial administrations are bound to implement it if they must protect public revenues, he said.

"Among Ed (Gov. Eddie Panlilio) is not going to be the governor forever. We might not have a governor as committed as him," Guiao said.

Quarry revenues posted an average of P1 million a day since July 2, Panlilio's first day in office.

Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, had said he would serve for only one term or three years.

The governor, backed by a special committee supervised by provincial administrator Vivian Dabu, has increased quarry collections by more than 1,000 percent by requiring operators to pay sand taxes at the provincial treasurer's office, not at roadside checkpoints.

ROUNDUP

Seeds, nuts of jatropha poisonous, kids discover

CEBU CITY—Twenty-one students of a public elementary school in an island-village of Tubigon, Bohol were hospitalized for food poisoning after eating the fruit of 'tuba-tuba' on Wednesday.

The students were on their way home for their lunch break when they passed by two *tuba-tuba* trees and started picking and eating its seeds, not knowing they were poisonous, according to Dr. Adoracion Torregosa, administrator of the Tubigon Community Hospital.

Tuba-tuba, or jatropha, is considered one of the country's most promising sources of biofuel today because its nuts contained oil that can be processed into diesel.

The students had just been released from their morning class at the Batasan Island Elementary School at past 11 a.m. on Wednesday and were walking home when they passed by two *tuba-tuba* trees and started picking their nuts and eating their seeds.

Torregosa said the students immediately complained of abdominal pain and headache after they ate the seeds. Some of them started vomiting, he said. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas***

Ex-cop chief in hiding

BACOLOD CITY—The former provincial police chief of Negros Occidental has gone into hiding after a court ordered his arrest for his alleged involvement in the kidnap-slaying of a former barangay captain in the city in 2003.

Retired Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras, interviewed by phone yesterday, insisted he was innocent of charges and would surface soon to clear his name.

Ponteras said he went into hiding after he learned that the Regional Trial Court judge in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, issued on Tuesday a warrant for his arrest and that of retired police general George Bajelot, the former police chief of Bacolod.

They were charged with the kidnapping of Eleuterio Salabas, the former chair of Barangay Pahanocoy in Bacolod City, in August 2003.

The body of Salabas was found in waters between Iloilo City and Negros Occidental 20 days after his abduction. He had a single gunshot wound in the head.

The bodies of his companions—Ricardo Suganob and Maximo Lomonjo Jr.,—were found separately. Suganob's was found in a river in Bago City. Lomonjo's was found in the waters of Pulupandan, Negros Occidental. ***Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas***

'Bayong' ordinance returned

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. returned unsigned an ordinance banning plastics from the city's commercial districts, saying he wanted a law that was not designed to win an election.

The "Balik Bayong" ordinance was one of the last laws passed by the previous city council.

It would have given groceries, stores and markets until 2012 to shift from plastic bags to "bayong" (old market bags woven from buri leaves) in their daily retail transactions.

Bautista said he wanted a tougher law that would grant the government enough powers to enforce the ban. He said he also wanted the new ordinance implemented between Baguio's centennial 2009 and 2010.

The ordinance requires groceries, market stalls and other retail enterprises to provide customers with reusable bags. ***Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

7 kidnapping suspects fall

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Seven suspected members of a kidnap-for-ransom syndicate were arrested after a brief chase with policemen in Victoria, Laguna on Tuesday afternoon, police said Wednesday.

Arrested were Arnel Nicopior, 34; Wilfredo Lagrama, 50; Melbert Rafor, 28; Teddy Ribot, 36; Danilo Bandoy, 46; Rommel Asuncion, 21; and Rodel Inovero Asuncion, 26.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, Laguna police director, said the arrested men belonged to the Asuncion Gang, part of a bigger kidnapping syndicate.

Two other gang members, a certain Larry and Efren, were able to escape. ***Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Dog, cat save family

DIGOS CITY—A resident of nearby Padada, Davao del Sur reported that two of the family's pets—a cat and a dog—saved them from harm last Thursday.

Antonio Brieto, of Barangay Palili, said he fed the cat and dog with the entrails of assorted fish he earlier bought from a fish cage owner. He said the animals died immediately after eating the entrails.

Brieto said he told his maid not to cook the fish. He brought the assorted fish to the agriculture office here.

Ernesto Miro, provincial agriculturist, said the specimen had been sent to the agriculture laboratory in Davao City for tests, that would be known next week. ***Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao***

Media summit on HSA

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Journalists from Mindanao will converge in August here for a media summit on press freedom in the light of the implementation of the Human Security Act.

Fears had been expressed over the HSA's effects on press freedom.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines expressed alarm over a statement attributed to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales that journalists may be wiretapped in the course of the HSA's implementation. ***Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao***

Int'l travel trade in Cebu

THE COUNTRY'S only international travel trade event takes center stage Sept. 5-7 this year in Cebu province, according to a press release.

Dubbed the first Philippine International Tourism Fair (PITF) 2007, the event will coincide with the Department of Tourism's Philippine Travel Exchange (Philtex) 2007 which will be held at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) in Mandaue City.

The PITF 2007 is organized by the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Naitas), the country's largest travel organization, and the Philippine Travel Mart Foundation.

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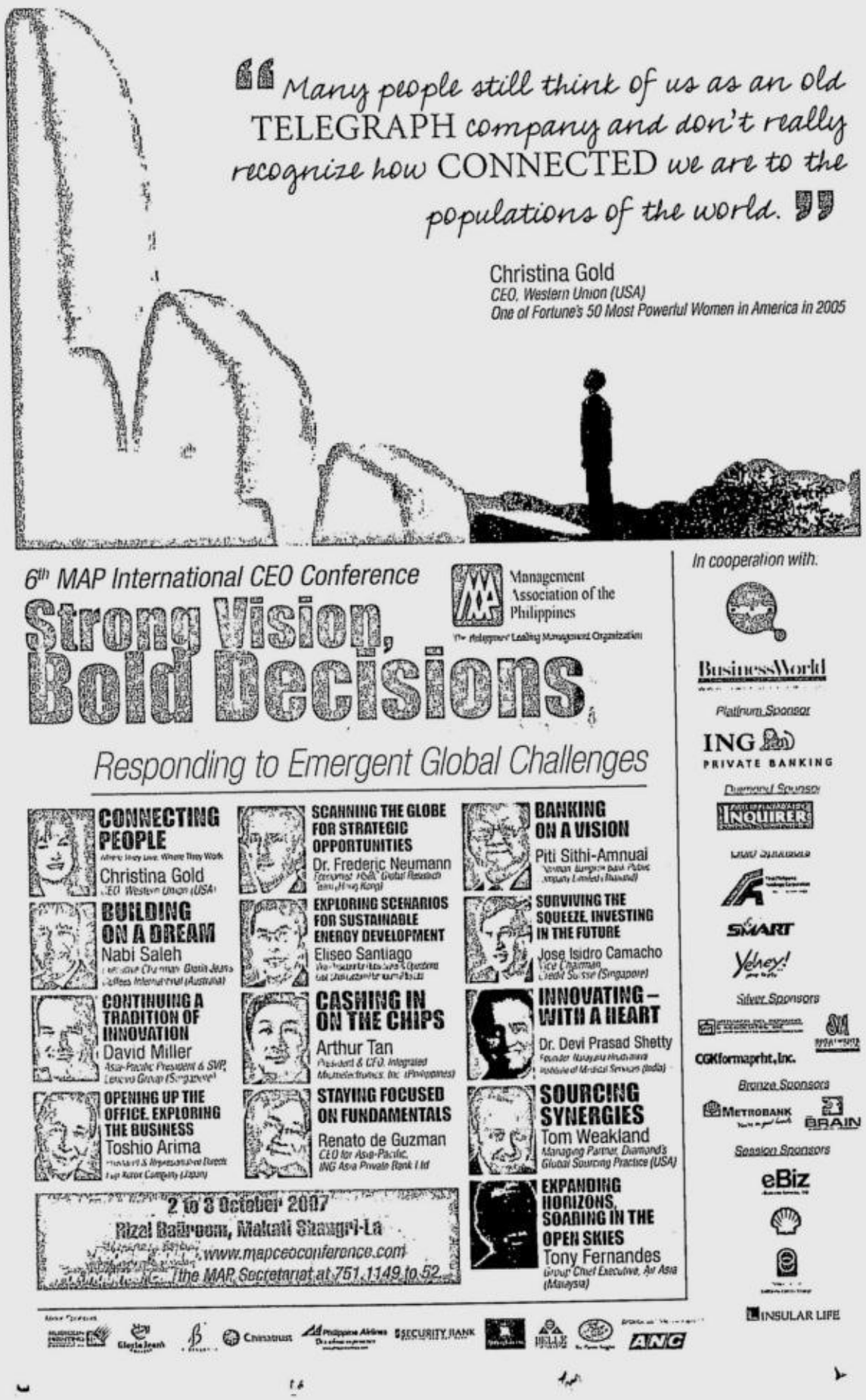

PHOTOS BY MIAA CAMERA CLUB

MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

THE FACES OF HEROES AT NAIA. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has frequen-ted the airport to personally meet and welcome returning Overseas Filipino Workers from various points of origin. A One-Stop-Shop OFW lounge and dedicated service lanes for OFW in cooperation with the OWWA, POEA, Bureau of Immigration and Bureau of Customs since 2004.

GM Alfonso Cusi meeting with various heads of government agencies operating at the NAIA pursuant to Administrative Order 151

Sec Leandro R. Mendoza
Dept of Transportation and Communications

Alfonso G. Cusi
MIAA General Manager

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The Manila International Airport Authority, for the past 25 years, has been at the forefront of air travel and passenger accommodation and has been a prime mover and catalyst in the promotion of safe, reliable and convenient air transportation and a valuable contributor to the eco tourism thrusts of the government.

With a proud history that depicts the uniqueness of Filipino hospitality, as well as resiliency and courage amidst the ever-changing and challenging global and national environment, MIAA has taken on the responsibility of manager and steward of the country's premier airport, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, with both pride and unwavering commitment. The NAIA, through Ter-minal 1, Terminal 2 and the Old Domestic Passenger Terminal, at present handles 95 percent of all international passenger traffic and 70 percent of total air passenger traffic in the country.

A priority infrastructure project, NAIA Terminal 3 has been the object of a thorough terminal readiness and opening work program by the Authority and meantime that the structural and life-safety system defi-ciencies on account of a private contractor are rectified and other safety, technical and legal con-cerns are adequately addressed for the benefit of passengers and other airport users, MIAA remains resolute and committed to pursue and deliver airport service enhancements in terms of passenger handling, passenger convenience, security and safety, emergency and medical provi-sions, concessions management and other aviation and non-aviation support facilities. Aware of our day-to-day commitment to our passengers and stakeholders, we are embracing a corporate culture that will promote service excellence, high performance and energetic work teams on a 24/7 basis. As the Authority entrusted with the premier gateway and other international airports in the making pursuant to Executive Order 341, we are embarking on new perspectives and horizons in airport development, administrative and operational efficiency and strategic planning.

We are staying on course for a world class objective. For the Country. For our People.

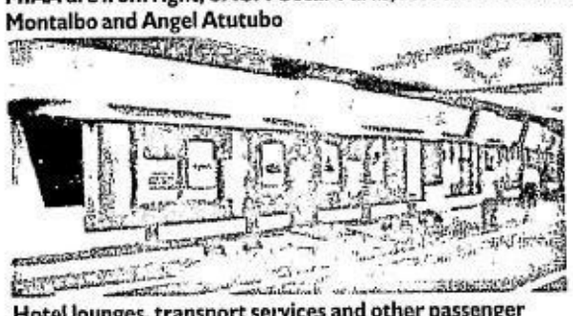
More extensive landscaping are pursued as part of the new NAIA airport complex theme development plan

MIAA was awarded as a Model Company in two categories by the Department of Trade and Industry's Center for Industrial Competitiveness, namely, on Quality Improvement and Productivity and Labor Management Relations. Shown receiving the award for MIAA are from right, SAGM Oscar Paras, AGMs TG Serrano, Jun Montalbo and Angel Atutubo

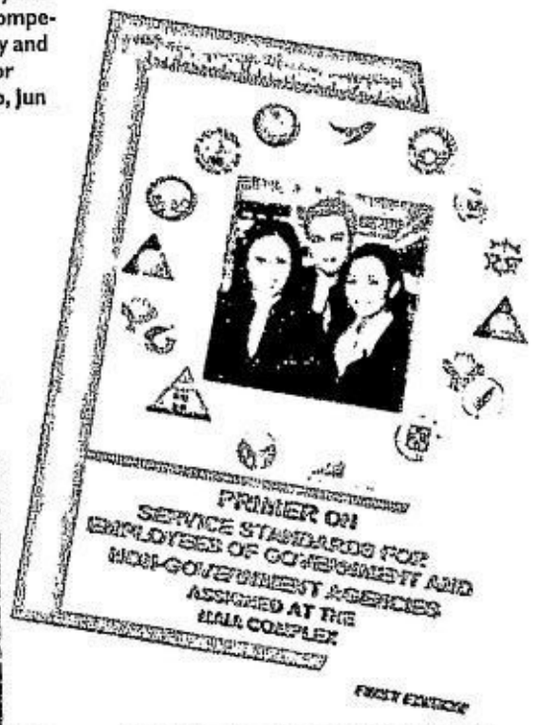
Vision- Mission Statement

MIAA will be a globally competitive organization providing airport facilities and services consistent with international standards by 2010.

We commit to accelerate the development of Philippine airports in support of initiatives transforming the country into a center of trade and tourism.



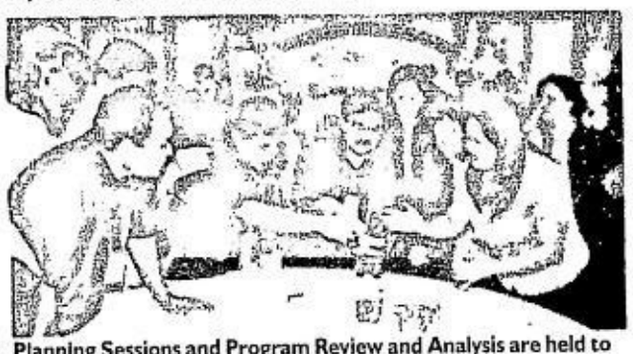
Hotel lounges, transport services and other passenger services promoting convenience were upgraded



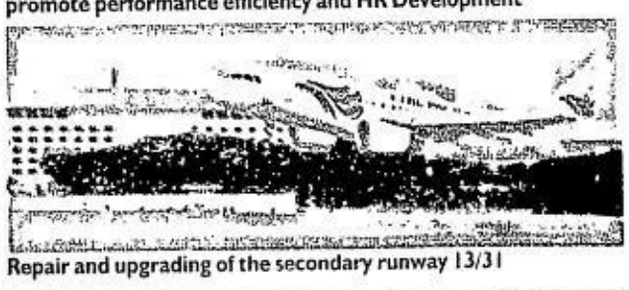
The new NAIA Service Decorum Handbook was launched in March 2007 to help define high standards of excellence and integrity

The MIAA Yearend Performance Awards (MYPA) recognizes Model Employees, Model Managers, Work Teams and Improvement Projects

Terminal 3 Inspection Tours by the MIAA Board led by MIAA Chairman Leandro Mendoza

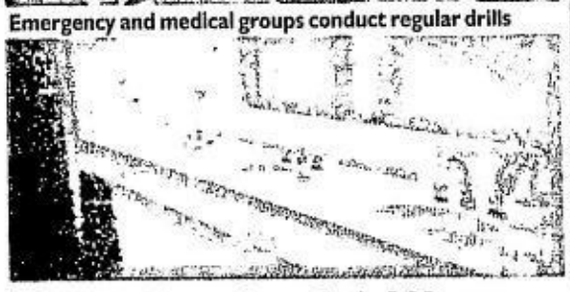


Planning Sessions and Program Review and Analysis are held to promote performance efficiency and HR Development



Repair and upgrading of the secondary runway 13/31

Emergency and medical groups conduct regular drills



Toilets are basic key result areas for the 5-S Program

OFWs and balikbayans are treated to special holiday raffles with house & lot and livelihood packages as prizes in partnership with private enterprises

GM Cusi with key officials Senior Assistant General Manager Oscar Paras , center, and, from left to right, Assistant General Managers TG Serrano, Angel Atutubo, Bing Lina, Hermie Castillo and Jun Montalbo and Head Executive Assistant Robert Uy. Not in photo is Caloy Lozada, OIC for Engineering.

Cat predicts deaths, eases passing at nursing home

From page A1

to call family members once the cat has chosen a patient. It usually means the patient has only about two hours to live.

"He doesn't make too many mistakes. He seems to understand when patients are about to die," Dr. David Dosa said in an interview. He described the phenomenon in a poignant essay in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

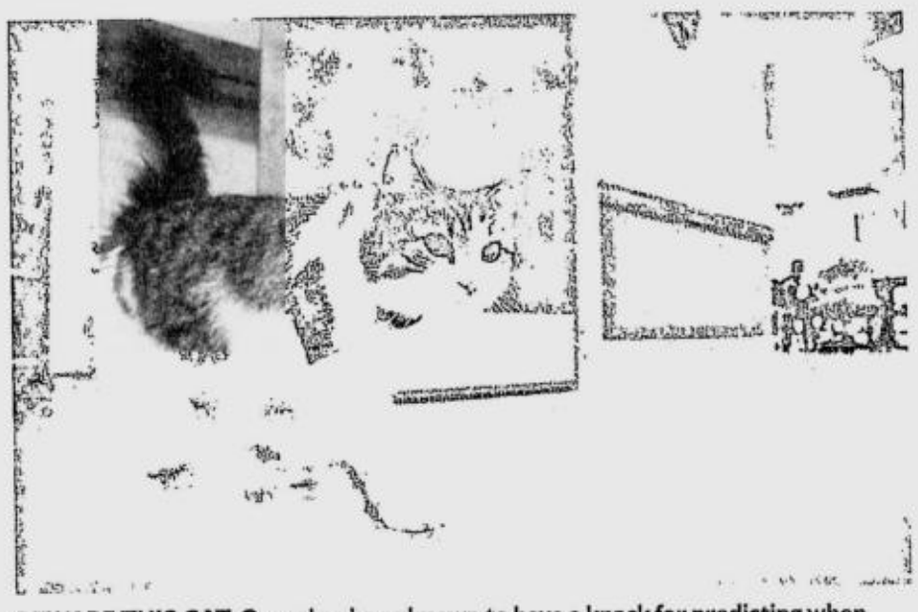
"Many family members take some solace from it. They appreciate the companionship that the cat provides for their dying loved one," said Dosa, a geriatrician and assistant professor of medicine at Brown University.

Last 2 hours

The 2-year-old feline was adopted as a kitten and grew up in a dementia unit at Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The facility treats people with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and other illnesses.

After about six months, the staff noticed Oscar would make his own rounds, just like the doctors and nurses. He would sniff and observe patients, then sit beside people who would end up dying in a few hours.

According to Dosa, Oscar seems to take his work seriously and is generally aloof. "This is not a cat that's friendly to people," he said.



BEWARE THIS CAT: Oscar has been known to have a knack for predicting when nursing home patients are going to die. The feline keeps vigil next to the patient until the final hour. AP

Oscar is better at predicting death than the people who work there, said Dr. Joan Teno of Brown University, who treats patients at the nursing home and is an expert on care for the terminally ill

"It's not that the cat is consistently there first," said Teno, a professor of community health. "But the cat always does manage to make an appearance, and it always seems to be in the last two hours."

Families grateful

Teno was convinced of Oscar's talent when he made his 13th correct call. While observing one patient, the doctor said she noticed the woman was not eating, was breathing with difficulty and that her legs had a bluish tinge, signs that often mean death is near.

Oscar would not stay inside the room though, so Teno thought his streak was broken. Instead, it turned out the doctor's prediction was roughly 10 hours too early. Sure enough, during the patient's final two hours, nurses told Teno that Oscar joined the woman at her bedside.

According to the doctors, most of the residents who get a visit from the sweet-faced, gray-and-white cat are so ill they probably do not know he is there, so patients are not aware he is a harbinger of death.

Most families are grateful for the advanced warning, although one family wanted Oscar out of the room while a family member died. When Oscar was put outside, however, he paced and meowed his displeasure.

No one is certain if Oscar's behavior is scientifically significant or points to a cause. Teno wonders if the cat notices telltale scents or reads something into the behavior of the nurses who raised him.

"I don't think this is a psychic cat ... I think there's probably a biochemical explanation," she said in a telephone interview.

Possible explanations

Nicholas Dodman, who directs an animal behavioral clinic at the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and has read Dosa's article, said the only way to know was to carefully document how Oscar divided his time between the living and dying.

It is possible his behavior could be driven by self-centered pleasures, like a heated blanket placed on a dying person, according to Dodman.

Thomas Graves, a feline expert and chief of small animal medicine at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, said there was no evidence to suggest cats could sense death, but he didn't discount the possibility for a minute.

"Those things are hard to study. I think probably dogs and cats can sense things we can't," Graves said.

On a particular day detailed by Dosa, Oscar settled onto the bed of a patient in Room No. 313. The cat's presence prompted the staff off to make calls to the patient's family and set up vigil.

Awarded a plaque

When a grandson asked why the cat was there, his mother explained: "He is here to help Grandma get to heaven," according to Dosa's account. She died a half an hour later.

Still, nursing home staffers are not concerned with explaining Oscar, so long as he gives families a better chance at saying goodbye to the dying.

Oscar recently received a wall plaque publicly commending his "compassionate hospice care." *Reports by AP and Reuters*

Obesity 'socially contagious,' US researchers find

From page A1

can spread easily from person to person.

The large, US-funded study found this to be true even if your loved ones live far away. Social ties seem to play a surprisingly strong role, even more than genes are known to do.

"We were stunned to find that friends who are hundreds of miles away have just as much impact on a person's weight status as friends who are right next door," said coauthor James Fowler of the University of California, San Diego.

The study found a person's chances of becoming obese went up 57 percent if a friend did, 40 percent if a sibling did, and 37 percent if a spouse did. In the closest friendships, the risk almost tripled.

On average, the researchers calculated, when an obese person gained 7.7 kilograms (17 pounds), the corresponding friend put on an extra 2.3 kg (5 lb).

Gender influence

Gender also had a strong influence. In same-sex friendships, a person's obesity risk increased by 71 percent if a friend gained weight. Between brothers, the risk was up by 44 percent and 67 percent between sisters.

Researchers think it is more than just people with similar eating and exercise habits hanging out together. Instead, it may be that having relatives and friends who become obese changes one's idea of what is an acceptable weight.

Despite their findings, the researchers said people should not sever their relationships.

"There is a ton of research that suggest that having more friends makes you healthier," Fowler said. "So the last thing that you want to do is get rid of any of your friends."

The study was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine and funded by the National Institute on Aging.

Medical records

Researchers analyzed medical records of people in the Framingham Heart Study, which has been following the health of residents of that Boston suburb for more than a half century. They tracked records for relatives and friends using contact information that participants provided each time they were examined over a 32-year period.

In all, 12,067 people were involved in the study.

After taking into account natural weight gain and other factors, researchers found the greatest influence occurred among friends and not among people sharing the same genes or living in the same household. Geography and smoking cessation had no effect on obesity risk.

Global epidemic

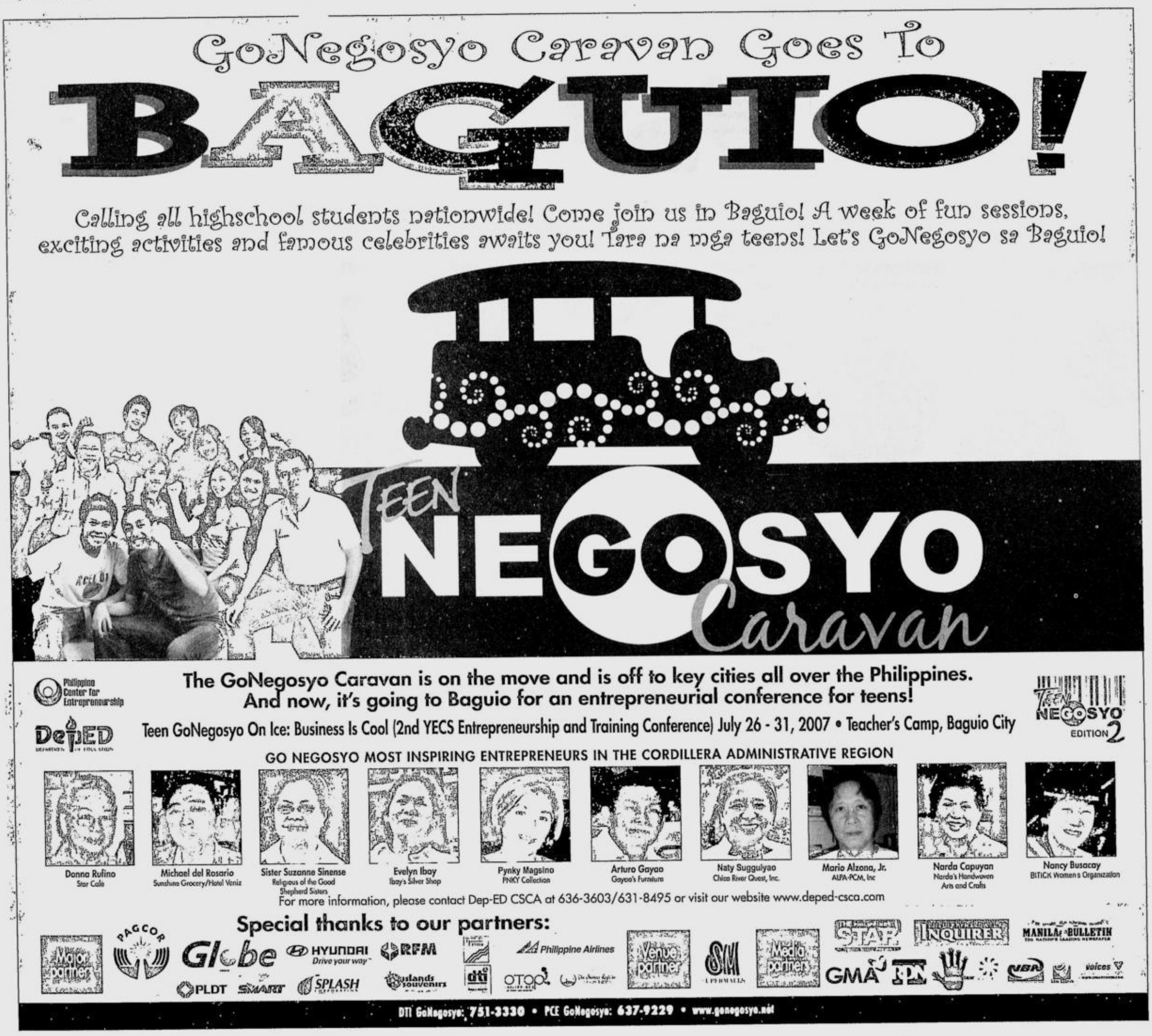
Indiana University statistician Stan Wasserman said while the study was clever, it had its limitations because it excluded relationships outside of the Framingham group.

Obesity is a global public health problem. About 1.5 billion adults worldwide are overweight, including more than 400 million who are obese. Two-thirds of Americans are either overweight or obese.

Much of the recent research focus has been on the intense hunt for obesity genes involved in appetite or calorie burning.

The findings could open a new avenue for treating this worldwide epidemic. The researchers said it might be helpful to treat obese people in groups instead of just the individual.

"Because people are interconnected, their health is interconnected," said lead author Dr. Nicholas Christakis, a Harvard sociologist. *AP*



Free all kids in jail, GMA orders police

From page A1

and Penology and the Bureau of Corrections.

The President said the continued detention of minors ran counter to the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (Republic Act No. 9344) which was passed in April 2006.

She directed the justice department, through the PAO, to immediately file petitions in court for the release of children "already convicted" and "in detention pending trial."

Ms Arroyo's order stated that upon the issuance of a release order by the courts, the head/warden of the detention facility shall release the child within 48 hours to his/her parents in the presence of the local social welfare development officer.

The officer shall then prepare and implement the necessary after-care services to ensure the normal growth and development of the child as a productive member of society.

It was the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the PAO that had jointly requested the executive order, the INQUIRER learned.

According to Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, RA 9344 states that children are to be released from regular jails and turned over to facilities run by the DSWD or its counterpart in local government units.

"They are not to be considered criminals to be punished but young people who need to undergo restorative and rehabilitative activities," Cabral said in a phone interview.

She said that with their criminal cases now considered "dropped," the children could spend between six months and one year in the facility—or even longer, depending on the assessment of social workers and counselors.

PAO chief Persida Acosta said her agency—which provides defense lawyers to indigents accused of crimes for free—had also lobbied for the executive order to remedy a situation often encountered by public lawyers who had underage clients.

She said that when a prosecutor objected to a PAO lawyer's petition seeking the release of a young client from detention, the prosecutor would argue that the proper procedure would be to file a petition for the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus.

But a writ of habeas corpus applies to arbitrary or illegal detention, which is not the general case with young offenders, she said.

In conflict with law

DSWD and PAO records have yet to specify how many young offenders—formally called "children in conflict with the law"—would immediately benefit from the executive order.

PAO records showed the agency received 2,777 new cases involving such children from January to June 2007, on top of the 10,988 pending cases as of the end of 2006.

Cabral said she knew of at least 25 convicted offenders currently serving their sentences in the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City who were aged 15 years and below when they committed the crimes.

Among the salient points of RA 9344 is the creation of a juvenile council under the administrative supervision of the DOJ but headed by an undersecretary of social welfare.

It also provides that children aged 15 years and under shall be criminally exempt, and youth offenders aged 15 to 18 shall be criminally charged only if they are found to have committed the crime with discernment.

RA 9344 also states that upon their apprehension, children in conflict with the law should be immediately turned over to social workers.

In explaining her issuance of the executive order, Ms Arroyo said the state recognized "the vital role of children and youth in nation building," and would "promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being."

Cop exec warns vs 'child terrorists'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A POLICE OFFICIAL YESTERday sought a review of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 (Republic Act 9344), saying it could be used by terrorists and other criminals.

Chief Supt. Pedro Tango, director of the Northern Police District, said children could be "brainwashed or threatened to carry out terrorist activities and used as a tool to commit heinous crimes."

"The police cannot pursue a case against a minor, and criminals know this," he said. Thus, he said, RA 9344 should be "reviewed to give police the authority to take custody of and prosecute child offenders who committed terrorist activities and high criminal offenses."

He added that the cases of children in conflict with the law who are neither hard-core criminals nor recidivists should be addressed separately.

Released without charge

Tango pointed out that child offenders in middle-class areas were different from those in depressed areas.

"The physical and environmental conditions of the offender should also be considered and treated adequately," he said.

Even if the same children are rearrested for the same offense, they have to be released without charge, he said. "Otherwise, the arresting officer could be charged with violation of RA 9344."

These cases mostly involve snatching, robbery and physical injury, according to police records.

Mining out of DENR control; now placed under GMA office

From page A1

effective implementation of the country's utilization and development of its mineral resources."

Her directive was contained in Executive Order No. 636 dated July 18, which was made public yesterday.

As with other new EOs, Ms Arroyo said, "all issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this EO are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly."

The President's decision to take a direct hand in the supervision of Philippine Mining Development Corp. (PMDC) is seen as crucial in the development of the industry.

The Philippines ranks fifth among the countries rich in mineral resources.

Mining activities, already on the uptrend, are expected to further increase next year with more foreign investments coming in.

This year alone, some of the world's biggest mining players have invested a total of $500 million in mining in the Philippines.

These firms and their investments include: Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., $100 million, Oceana Gold Ltd. of New Zealand and Climax Arino Mining Co. of Australia, $100 million, and Coral Bay Nickel Corp., $100 million (to expand its Rio Tuba operations in Palawan).

Responsible mining stressed

The PMDC is a government-owned and -controlled corporation with the primary task of "exploring, developing, mining, smelting and producing, transporting, storing, distributing, exchanging, selling, disposing, importing, exporting, trading, and promoting gold, silver, copper, iron and all kinds of mineral deposits and substances."

The Arroyo administration has stressed that environmental laws would not be compromised in the development of the country's mineral resources, and that responsible mining was key to sustainable economic growth.

The local mining industry suffered a slump in the 1970s when metal prices in the world market dived.

But with the new surge in the price of metals, the Philippine mining industry is well-positioned to cash in on the price hikes, Malacañang said.

Only 20 'true believers' stay the course out of 321

From page A1

her way, including the death of her father and the loss of the family home to a fire.

Junnibert worries about the prospects of missing the graduation of his firstborn next year.

Behind bars for the last four years now, Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, 2nd Lt. Edwin Duetao and 2nd Lt. Junnibert Tubo are paying the ultimate price of their actions that fateful day.

The three Navy officers were among 321 junior military officers and men who occupied the Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City on July 27, 2003, to protest alleged corruption in the government and the military.

The difference is that the three officers belong to the "roughly" 10 percent of the group, called Magdalo, who are continuing to fight for what they had started at Oakwood—this time before civilian and military courts.

Their colleagues have either been released or are set to be freed after pleading guilty or entering into a plea bargain agreement with the military.

The mutineers have been lamenting the snail's pace of the proceedings. The prosecution has yet to present its case. But military prosecutors are blaming defense lawyers for the delay.

When the mutineers surrendered 18 hours after their occupation of Oakwood, they were charged separately as a group.

Apology

A year later, the Magdalo leaders apologized to President Macapagal-Arroyo but she insisted that their trial go on.

In November 2004, Ms Arroyo released 133 enlisted personnel, saying they had been deceived into joining the mutiny. But there was talk that the move was an offshoot of the apology of their leaders.

Before the general court-martial, 29 core leaders that included Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and Captains Milo Maestrecampo and Gerardo Gambala were facing the charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. Under Articles of War (AW) No. 96, this carries the penalty of dismissal from the service without honor.

Trillanes has given up his Navy commission and has been elected senator. He remains detained while fighting his case and is seeking permission meanwhile to attend to his duties in the upper chamber.

Being core leaders, the 29 officers were also charged with coup d'etat before a Makati Regional Trial Court.

"SOLDIERS OF THE NATION," that's what they called themselves on reading their video statement that demanded the Arroyo administration resign. They said they were prepared to die to force change.

INQUIRER PHOTO FILE

Another group of 61 junior officers were charged with violating AW 96 and four other AWs that included the serious charge of mutiny. However, no case has been brought against them in a civilian court.

7 out of 61 fight it out

Since then, 54 of the 61 have decided to strike a plea bargain with military lawyers.

Changing their original plea of not guilty to the five charges, the 54 officers opted to be tried on the lesser charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman last April. The military court then ruled that they be dismissed from the service without honor and that they be released from detention on Jan. 28, 2008.

That leaves only seven of the 61 who have decided to go to trial and fight it out.

In June, Ms Arroyo affirmed the sentence of the military court on the 54 men.

On July 10, 12 of the 29 core leaders that included Maestrecampo and Gambala pleaded guilty to the charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, paving the way for their dishonorable discharge from the service. However, they did not enter into a plea bargain.

Twelve others from the core group told the court to give them time to decide whether they will enter into a special plea or demurrer, that is, seek the dismissal of the case against them without making a plea on the charge against them.

Another five, including Faeldon and Trillanes, did not signify any intention of what they intend to do with their case, being absent in the July 10 hearing.

This time though Faeldon, Tubo and Duetao are now saying that they don't intend to enter into any plea bargain arrangements and would rather push ahead with their trial.

Personal choices

Col. Pete Davila, staff judge advocate of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, said that there were now only 17-20 of the core leaders who wished to go to trial.

They make up "roughly 10 percent" of the original mutineers, said Davila, who is the chief military prosecutor in the Oakwood mutiny case. He declined to speculate if the majority got fed up with their situation.

"You can see that these are personal choices not a group choice. Each person has his own thinking," Davila said.

He recalled that during a hearing in April he had expected 15 to 20 junior officers to plead guilty to a lesser charge. But 54 officers stood up to do so instead, completely surprising the prosecution panel.

"You can see it's an individual choice, not mass hysteria, not mass psychological warfare," he said.

To further illustrate his point, he recalled that two hearings before, Navy Lt. (s.g.) James Layug had told him he wanted to plead guilty right then and there but he told him he should consult his lawyer first.

Eventually, Layug did not enter any plea, Davila said.

'I have the video'

Given that majority of the Oakwood participants now detained have already decided to get out, did this mean they were not solid on what they fought for when they went to Oakwood?

"Obviously," Davila replied.

Davila denied that the military was initiating the plea bargain.

"What do I want from them that they can give me?" Davila said. "A prosecutor will be tempted to ask for a plea bargain if he thinks his case is weak."

"I don't think my case is weak," he shot back. "I have the video. Everybody around the world knows about it."

As for complaints of delay, Davila said that the prosecution wanted the case to be over given the expenses the government and the Filipino people incurred in the trial.

'Principle of the thing'

Trixie Cruz-Angeles, who represents Faeldon, Tubo and Duetao, the "holdouts" in the group, said that unlike her clients, the military had nothing to lose if their case was delayed.

"My clients are the ones in jail," Angeles said. "They don't have salaries and even subsistence allowances anymore."

She said her clients were standing trial because "it's the principle of the thing."

Citing the case of Faeldon, Angeles said when he and the rest of the others went to Oakwood, "most of them knew that it would be the end of the road for their career and even life, but they just had to say something."

She said her clients were ready to face whatever awaits them.

Angeles said Faeldon, Tubo and Duetao, who are not graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, respected the decisions of their comrades who either pleaded guilty or entered into plea bargain agreements.

'I will speak the truth'

"I will not judge them because I am not in their shoes," Faeldon said. "I have no right to tell them how to live their lives."

Faeldon, Tubo and Duetao acknowledged there had been attempts and "promises" made to them by their colleagues for them to change their stand, which they had rejected.

Tubo recalled that sometime in 2003 some colleagues asked him to testify against his other coaccused in exchange for a plea bargain. They even told him he could avail of the government's witness protection program.

"I told them if there is a chance for me to testify—bring me to court and I will speak the truth but I will not take any offer. But they didn't," he said.

No semblance of fairness

Since he has not taken part in any plea bargaining, Faeldon would rather not say what he thought of such offer. Tubo said that while it was part of the justice system, he saw the plea bargain offer as having "no semblance of fairness."

"It's not commensurate with the position and efforts of each individual who are being charged—as if you're buying different sizes of fish at one price. Besides it is too late to accept. I am not optimistic I will be acquitted but I will take the chances given by my lawyer," Tubo said.

Duetao also saw such measure as "unjust" and he would rather take his chances in the military court.

They all agree though that their decision to stand firm has its consequences.

Vindication

Faeldon said he was not allowed to pay his last respects to his father when he died several months ago. Likewise, since his salary had been cut off since July last year, he said he had been "relying on the charity of my family to send my son to college."

"But I am ready for all these; it's worth the cause," Faeldon said. He said he saw "no moral reason to plea bargain and give up the fight."

"Nothing has changed since we went to Oakwood and protested against corruption in the government, particularly in the military," he said. "If at all, the succeeding events have vindicated us."

18 hours ...

From page A1

Recovery Program is their "bible," the INQUIRER reports.

July 23: The President hosts dinner for the junior officers, dismisses coup rumors.

July 25: In remarks before civil society groups at the Edsa Shrine, the President squelches rumored coup over the weekend.

July 26: Ms Arroyo announces a band of soldiers has deserted, orders hunt and court-martial of 20 junior officers, calls an emergency meeting of the Cabinet and top military and police officials; civil society groups set up command center at Edsa Shrine.

July 27: 1 a.m.—As the President wraps up an emergency Cabinet meeting, about 200 soldiers in full combat gear plant bombs at Glorietta mall in Makati City and seize Oakwood Premier—a hotel and commercial complex.

4:30 a.m.—Rebels issue three-page statement detailing corruption in the military and calling for the President's resignation.

9 a.m.—President gives mutinous soldiers eight hours—up to 5 p.m.—to surrender or be removed by force.

10 a.m.—Navy Lt. (s./g.) Antonio Trillanes, leader of the renegade soldiers, rejects negotiations with the government.

1 p.m.—the President declares state of rebellion and directs military and police to take necessary measures to quell the rebellion.

3 p.m.—At least 10 rebel soldiers march out of Oakwood and return to the government fold. Thirty minutes later, military announces that about 50 rebel soldiers have returned to the government fold.

4:50 p.m.—In chaotic rebel press conference, Capt. Milo Maestrecampo declares: "Don't judge us. We are not terrorists. Whatever may happen here, we can say we stood our ground."

5 p.m.—Malacañang extends deadline for surrender of mutineers for two hours to 7 p.m.

5:20 p.m.—Honasan arrives at Oakwood, talks to rebel officers.

5:30 p.m.—Authorities raid operation center of the Magdalo rebel group in Mandaluyong City.

7:30 p.m.—Palace extends indefinitely deadline for surrender of rebels as negotiations continue.

9:50 p.m.—the President announces surrender of rebels, says mutineers will be investigated and punished according to the law.

Source: Inquirer archives

Lita Pascual, Account Manager

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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7th Anniversary

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One of the basic strengths of CROWN PACIFIC INSURANCE BROKERS & CONSULTANTS, INC. is risk analysis, management and design that will suit the needs of their clients. With only the best service in mind and a principle of "doing business with conscience", there is no doubt that this company will become one of the best players in the country's Insurance Brokerage.

MR. and Mrs. Pagharion

The Insurance Commission congratulates CROWN PACIFIC INSURANCE BROKERS & CONSULTANTS, INC., on the occasion of its 7th Anniversary.

Amidst the challenges brought about by stiff competition and an ever-evolving market and technology, you have maintained your growth and stability. May you continue to be a beacon of professionalism and ethics in the Insurance Brokerage in your relentless pursuit to provide appropriate insurance protection to your clients and the insuring public.

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(Sgd.) EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO
Insurance Commissioner

Warmest greetings to the officers and staff of CROWN PACIFIC INSURANCE BROKERS & CONSULTANTS, INC. as you celebrate your 7th anniversary.

We, at the Department of Trade and Industry-Philippine Shippers' Bureau, would like to commend your organization for consistently providing insurance service to the freight forwarding industry.

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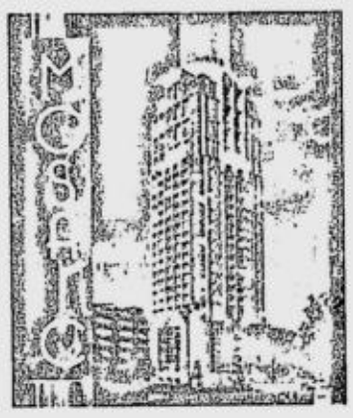

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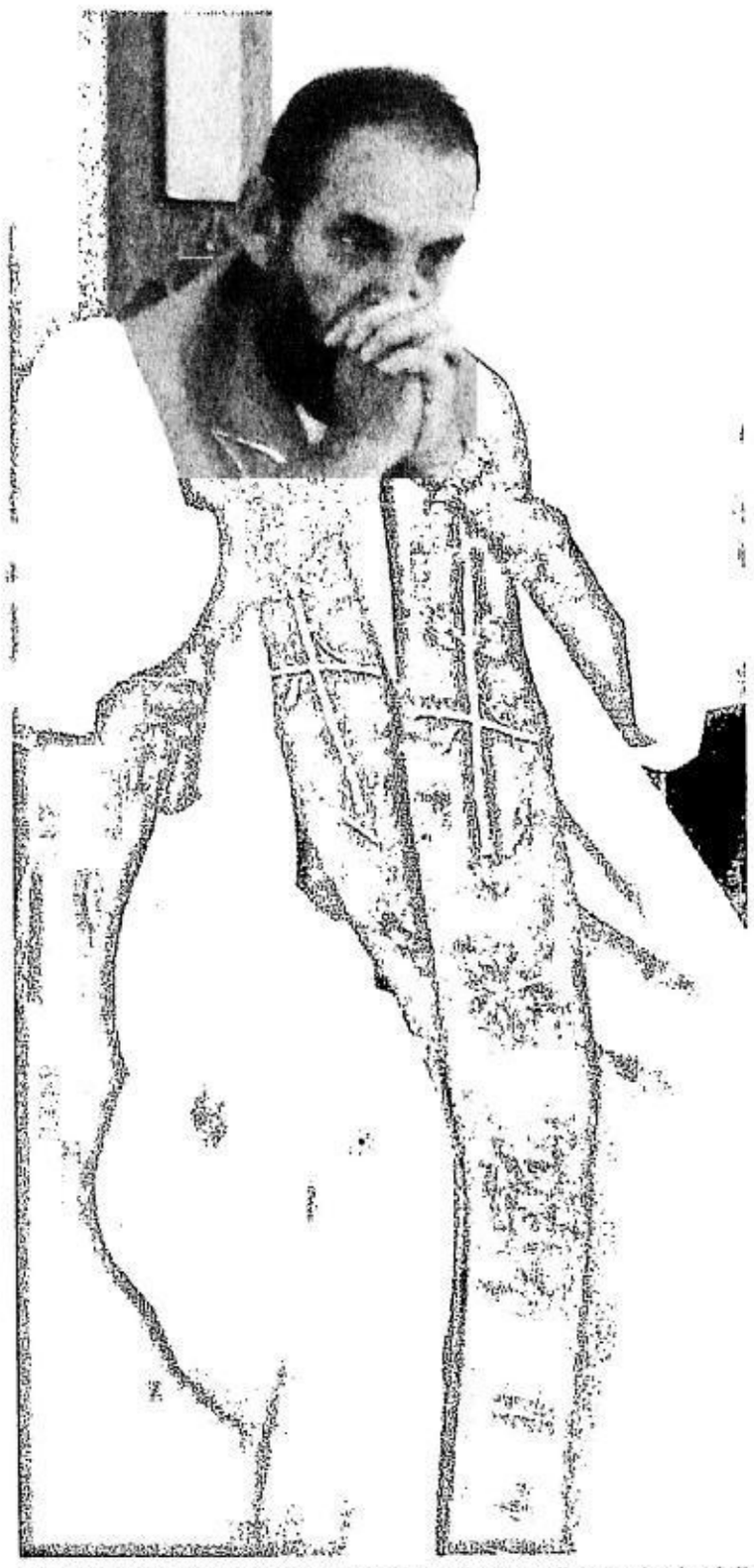

FR. BOSSI: "I will leave some of my things because I'm coming back."

Arrivederci: Bossi vows he'll be back

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

PAYAO, ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY—IF FR. Giancarlo Bossi had his way, he'd rather remain here and continue his ministry at the San Pablo Parish.

But Wednesday, as he sorted out his belongings in his small room, Bossi tried to control his emotions by cracking jokes with his staff and making faces at the children who refused to leave his side.

Bossi took some books and reading materials and handed them over to Fr. Robert Brillantes, parish priest of the neighboring town of Ipil.

"I will leave some of my things because I'm coming back," he told his staff in Cebuano.

But Remy Brocoy, Bossi's secretary of seven years, was not convinced.

"If he comes back, it will be just for a visit. Right now what's important to us is that he is alive," Brocoy said.

After his 40-day ordeal as a hostage of a rogue Moro element, Bossi was leaving for his native Italy to recuperate and spend time with his family.

On Bossi's return here Wednesday, he hardly touched the food prepared by his parishioners. He spent most of the time chatting with people and playing with the children.

A television network reported that he was suffering from diarrhea, but if he was ill, Bossi did not show it.

When it was time to go, the Italian priest said he was leaving "home with a heavy heart."

Two years after his ordination in 1978, Bossi was sent by the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime) to Tondo in Manila, and later to Siay, Bayog and Payao towns in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Fell in love

Bossi began serving the people in this small town in the late '70s.

"I fell in love with Payao—the place and the people. I feel that the people of Payao deserve more," he said.

Thirteen-year-old Edgar Rivero Jr. said Bossi "is more than a priest, he is like a father to all of us."

Rivero cited the way Bossi interacted with the children.

"He kisses our hands, whether it's covered in mud or sweat. He kisses our hands and starts telling stories. After the stories, he embraces us all. The smaller ones, he carries them in his arms," Rivero said.

Ainander Julain, a 10-year-old Muslim from the village of Bulawan, who waited for Bossi's vehicle to appear on the rough road leading to the parish, said he skipped school to see the Catholic priest.

He did not go into the parish compound, however. "Just seeing him makes me happy," he said.

Julain also said Bossi was "like a father" to him. He said not even his own father kissed and hugged him like Bossi did.

He recalled that Bossi visited their village once while he and a group of children were planting corn and cassava.

Julain said Bossi stayed a while and talked to them in Cebuano. Before leaving, the priest kissed and hugged them "even if we were soiled and drenched in sweat."

If he were a Christian, Julain said he would like be a priest.

"I'll do what he did to the people," he said.

Bossi told the INQUIRER hugging and kissing the children was his way of opening up his heart to the different faiths.

"I want to show them hand-kissing and hugging are my way of offering myself to them. I'm not just a *langyaw nga pari* (foreign priest) but a friend they can rely on. I am not here to create something that may divide the good relationship; I am here to bring them closer to each other," he said.

At the Mass he celebrated at the San Pablo Parish Church on Wednesday before leaving, Bossi told the parishioners and those of other faiths not to blame themselves for his abduction.

Gov't, MILF hold back-channel talks over Basilan

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNMENT AND Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace negotiators are holding back-channel talks to avert a shooting war in Basilan following the deaths of 14 Marines in an ambush on July 10.

"The gains of the peace process should not be destroyed and we in the MILF are determined to our level best to preserve it," Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, told the INQUIRER by phone.

Iqbal refused to name those involved in the talks but said "they are directly involved in the peace process."

Members of the government and MILF's joint coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities (JCCCH) are set to visit Albarka town in Basilan today to investigate the ambush and beheading of 10 Marines.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is also scheduled to hold a command conference with officers of the military's Western Mindanao Command and the Philippine National Police in Zambonga City today.

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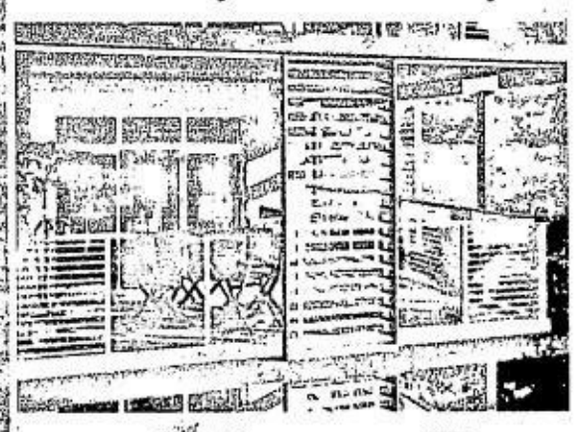

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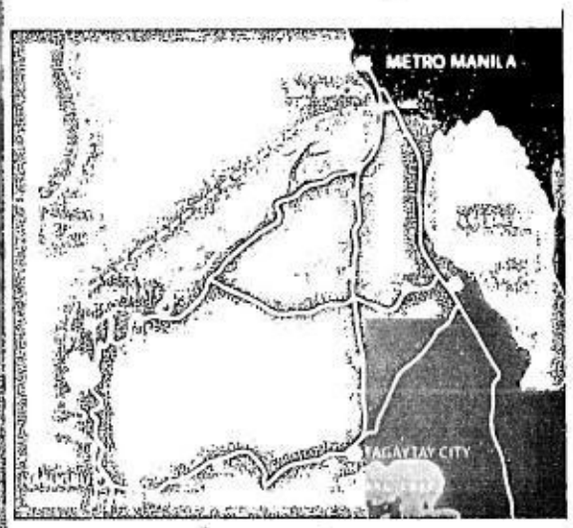

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PARAÑAQUE FAMILIES IN LUCK

Land for homeless

By Julie M. Aurelio

A PARAÑAQUE CITY COURT HAS ordered the city government to take charge of a 12,772-square meter piece of land occupied by 200 families.

Judge Fortunito Madrona of the Parañaque City Regional Trial Court Branch 274 issued a writ of possession for the property and ordered the city government to distribute it among the informal settlers living there.

In a two-page order dated July 16, Madrona granted the city government's motion for the issuance of a writ of possession for the property in Ibayo, Barangay Sto. Niño.

The writ of possession was issued on July 23, allowing the city govern-

LAND/ A22

GRAND PRIZE WINNER The Manila-based Bayanihan dance company bagged the grand prize at the 8th International Buyukcekmece Culture and Art Festival held recently in Istanbul, Turkey, besting 26 other dance groups. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Complainant insists case vs Palao be tried in Mindanao

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMPLAINANT WHO FILED kidnapping and murder charges against Samer Palao, the police's witness in a major Pasig drug case, is insisting that the case be tried in Mindanao.

Piangne Hadji Salam, elder sister of Memie Boratong, who allegedly owned and operated a Pasig drug den with her husband Amin Imam Boratong, rejected the decision of the Supreme Court Third Division to transfer the hearing of the case from Manila to Cebu City. Instead, she is pressing the Supreme Court Third Division to have the case against Palao tried in Cagayan de Oro City or anywhere in Mindanao.

Salam had accused Palao, who claims to be Boratong's right hand in shabu operations, of abducting and killing her brother Cadar Pitiilan Hadji Salam on July 6, 2006 in Lanao del Sur.

Boratong is being tried for the drug case at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court. He and his wife are also facing murder charges for allegedly masterminding the killing in 2005 of German Colisao, a GMA 7 informant.

Salam said she was "saddened and confused" when the court ordered the transfer of the case to the Cebu City Regional Trial Court.

In asking the court to allow the transfer of the case to Cagayan de Oro or any court in Mindanao, she said doing otherwise would be a "miscarriage of justice."

"All the pieces of evidence and the prosecution witnesses will surely come from the said place, she added. The complainant also lamented the Philippine National Police's "meddling" in the case. She questioned the court's decision to allow Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon to comment on their petition.

The PNP opposed the family's demand that the trial be transferred to Mindanao, saying they received intelligence information that Palao's life would be in danger if he proceeded to the island, where the Boratong couple allegedly wielded influence.

The PNP and state prosecutors also opposed the transfer of the Manila trial, saying it would delay the government's other cases against Boratong, who is now detained at the National Bureau of Investigation.

Salam's lawyer, Andres Manuel, said the transfer of the trial would not hamper the other cases as Palao's testimony was almost over.

"This should not be a one-way ticket with Samer Palao getting the better end of the deal," Manuel told the INQUIRER.

Taguig lets loose 'nightbirds' against criminals

By Julie M. Aurelio

A DIFFERENT KIND OF "NIGHTbird" will soon be roaming crime-prone areas in Taguig City to discourage criminal activities at night.

The Taguig City police will soon deploy patrol groups to Barangay Signal Village, Lower Bicutan and Western Bicutan as part of its increased police visibility and anticriminality campaign.

The campaign, dubbed "Oplan Nightbirds 2007," involves the deployment of foot and mobile patrols. "The teams will be composed of select members of the Taguig Mobile Patrol Group (TMPG), the city government's Public Order and Safety Office, Office of the Social Welfare and Development and the General Services Office," said Supt. Alfred Corpus, city police chief.

Corpus said the patrol team would be composed of 30 to 40 persons.

City Mayor Freddie Tinga expressed his support for the special night operations group.

"One of our biggest priorities is to provide our constituents with a safe and secure community. We hope to increase police visibility and provide preventive measures against nocturnal crimes," Tinga said.

The "Nightbirds" will also make their presence felt in areas that have become favorite hangouts of people in the evening, such as Internet cafés, 24-hour convenience stores, hospitals, and call centers.

"The group was primarily formed to address nocturnal criminality and lawlessness in the city. But more than providing preventive security measure, it will promptly respond to emergencies in their areas of coverage," police chief Corpus said.

He added that they would also strictly implement City Ordinance 13, which imposed a curfew on minors in the city.

The ordinance provides that residents below 18 years old are prohibited from going out of their homes from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. the following day unless they are accompanied by an adult. Minors are barred from "loitering or roaming aimlessly in the streets, store, bars, plazas, basketball courts, recreation halls, amusement centers or malls, billiard halls and/or pool rooms and other public places."

Violators will be brought to the city's social welfare office for counseling. Corpus said the offenders would be required to render community service under the supervision of barangay officials or social welfare officials.

DID YOU KNOW

THE IGLESIA ni Cristo celebrates its 93rd founding anniversary today, July 27. The religious organization was established in 1914 by Felix Manalo in Sta. Ana, Manila. It now has millions of members in the Philippines and abroad. Its central office complex is found on Don Mariano Marcos Avenue in Quezon City. The 50-hectare complex includes a university and a hospital. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF CORPORATE NAME OF BALABAC RESOURCES AND HOLDINGS CO., INC.

Notice is hereby given that **BALABAC RESOURCES AND HOLDINGS CO., INC.** with principal address at 12/F Allied Bank Center, 6745 Ayala Avenue, Makati City has been authorized by the Securities and Exchange Commission to change its corporate name to **ETON PROPERTIES PHILIPPINES, INC.**

This announcement shall serve as notice to all parties concerned of the amendment of the Articles of Incorporation of **ETON PROPERTIES PHILIPPINES, INC.**

(Sgd.) **MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - July 20 & 27, 2007)

Greening of Manila starts Aug. 1; Lim launches antipollution drive

By Allison W. Lopez

AS PART OF HIS ENVIRONMENtal program, the mayor will lead a massive tree-planting activity in the city on Aug. 1.

"We will plant trees all over the city, including sidewalks where there will be shade once they grow. Apart from that, the leaves will absorb carbon dioxide," he said.

Lim added that they have received 1,000 seedlings from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the event.

Various groups like the Boy Scouts of the Philippines will join city officials in the activity.

Smoke-belching vehicles, said Lim, would also be targeted by his campaign against pollution.

Meanwhile, Winner Foundation president Regina Paterno said they would conduct their own tree-planting activities on Aug. 4 and 12 in celebration of International Arbor (Tree) Day.

"Right now we have a geodetic engineer who will check if the drainage in Arroceros Forest Park is okay. We want to make sure everything is in place before we start planting new trees," she said.

The Pasig River walkway, which is being renovated, would also be dotted with trees by their group, said Paterno.

The environmentalist also called for water conservation because "power shortages are caused by water scarcity."

Lim advised city residents yesterday to conserve water and electricity due to reports that drought and brownouts might occur because of shortages.

"We should limit water consumption. For example, when you wash your hands don't take too long and don't leave faucets running," he said "Turn off the lights if you don't need them," he added.

Car wash owners, added Lim, could do their part by using buckets instead of hoses.

He said conservation measures would also reduce expenses.

The water level at Angat Dam, which supplies the commodity to Metro Manila, was reported to be 6 meters below the critical level recently.

METROBRIEFS

Rob group nabbed

THE Eastern Police District yesterday arrested alleged members of a notorious motorcycle-riding robbery group reportedly responsible for a series of robberies in an operation in Pasig City yesterday. Police identified the suspects as Deocello Encabo 37, Reynaldo Martin 38, Thomas Cabintoy 34, aat Glen Dizon 30, who were arrested at the Rafael Compound in the city. EPD director Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman said the group was responsible for two consecutive armed robberies on Monday and also took part in illegal activities in other parts of the metropolis. The official said the group targeted bank customers who had just withdrawn large amounts of cash. The suspects would then follow their victims on their motorcycles and rob them at gun point. *Kristine L. Alave*

Raps filed vs 3 cops

A MAN yesterday filed robbery, extortion and estafa charges against three policemen of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) for allegedly confiscating his personal belongings during a drug bust and withdrawing hundreds of thousands of pesos from his ATM account. Alvin John Claros, 43, of No. 72 Madasalin St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, filed charges against PO2 Ramir Policarpio, IO1 Liwanag Sandaan and SPO3 Manuel Tuliao in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. In his complaint affidavit, Claros said seven policemen barged inside his room last June 26 and divested him of personal items such as his wallet, cellular phone, wrist watch, and two ATM cards. He was then brought to the PDEA jail and was told he would be charged with violating the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act if he refused to give his ATM card's pin number. Released after posting bail, Claros was shocked to find out that P255,000 had been withdrawn from his ATM account. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Dancing for a cause

SOROPTIMIST International of Manila Tourist Belt is inviting everyone to a night of music and dancing at 7 p.m. tonight at the Bailamor Restaurant and Bar, 1971 Leon Guinto Street, Malate, Manila. For inquiries, contact Precy Enciso at 522-0007; Fely Borje, 526-7308; Tessie Samson 809-7063, or Bailamor Restaurant and Bar, 536-1023.

Land for homeless

From page A21

ment to take control of the property.

The judge said "the petitioner has a lawful right to take the property sought to be expropriated for public use."

The city government, through Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr., sought the issuance of the writ on Jan. 19, 2006 in response to an appeal from informal settlers to be given a chance to own the land they occupy.

In April 2006, the city government deposited with the court P1,341,060, equivalent to 15 percent of the property's value based on its current tax declaration.

However, owners Teodorico and Fidela Santos wanted a higher price for the property.

The court ruled that the city government had complied with the requirements under Rule 67 of the Rules of Civil Procedure and Section 19 of the Local Government Code.

Bernabe lauded the court's decision as the families had been squatting on the land for 20 years.

"The property shall be developed and subdivided for distribution to the informal dwellers after ascertaining the legitimacy of their claims," the mayor said.

Branch clerk of court Roberto Makalintal Jr. ordered sheriff Jeffrey Sales to serve the writ to the heirs of Teodorico and Fidela Santos. Sales was given 60 days to serve the writ.

"Providing land to the city's landless is one of my continuing priority programs. We have to improve the quality of life of the city's poor," Bernabe said.

Madrona ordered the creation of a three-person commission to determine the "most equitable" value of the balance of 85 percent to satisfy the requirements of just compensation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II,
Edsa Cor. Mapagmahal St.
Diliman, Quezon City

Isang malugod na pagbati
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at sa kapatiran
ng Iglesia ni Cristo

sa kanilang

ika-93 anibersaryo
ngayong ika-27 ng Hulyo 2007.

Taos pusong pagbati mula
sa buong pamilya ng **DILG**
sa pamumuno ni
Kalihim Ronaldo V. Puno

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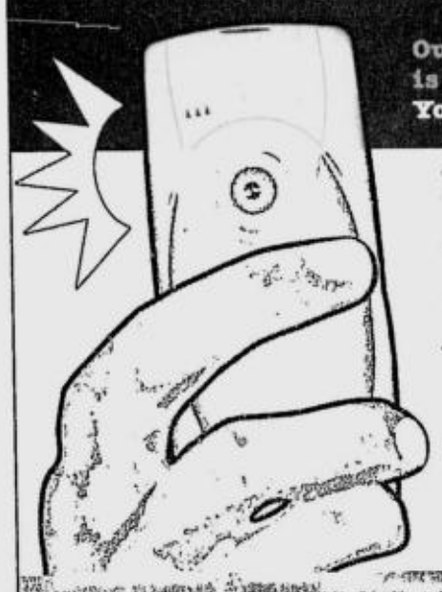

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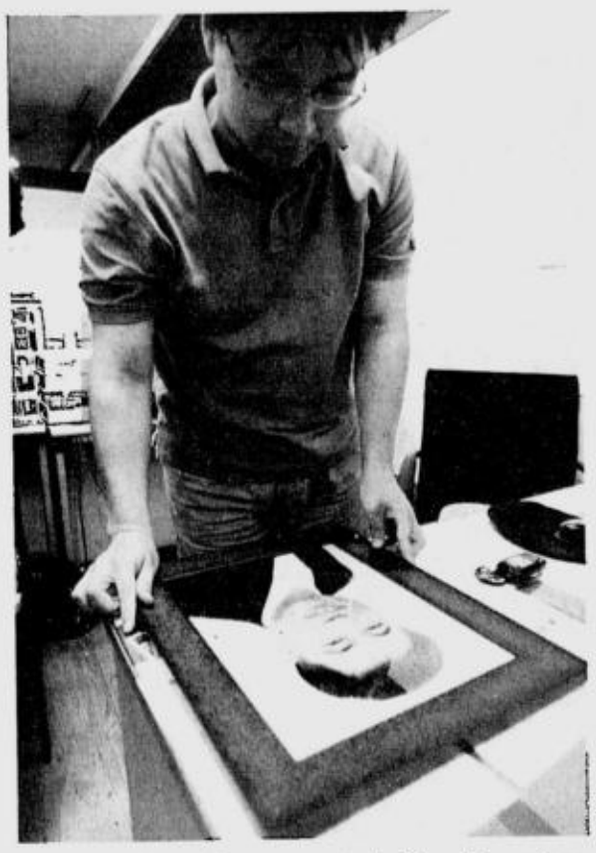
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Demand unmet, Taliban kill S. Korean hostage



A SOUTH Korean frames a portrait of Bae Hyung-Kyu, 42, who was kidnapped and killed in Afghanistan, at Saem-Mul church in Seongnam, Seoul, on July 26. REUTERS

SEOUL—A SENIOR SOUTH KOREAN envoy left for Afghanistan Thursday to try to save 22 compatriots held hostage by the Taliban after the insurgents gunned down one captive.

The government bitterly denounced the insurgents' killing of Bae Hyung-Kyu, a Presbyterian pastor who had led the group of young and mainly female aid workers on their ill-fated mission.

"Along with the Korean people, the government strongly protests their act of brutality in killing an innocent civilian," said a statement from the office of President Roh Moo-Hyun.

Those responsible "will be held accountable for taking the life of a Korean citizen," it said.

"The killing of an innocent citizen cannot be justified under any circumstance or for any reason, and any such inhumane act cannot be tolerated."

The government said Baek Jong-Chun, chief presidential secretary for foreign and security policy, left for Afghanistan as a special presidential envoy.

It reiterated its opposition to any military rescue but highlighted the problems in negotiating with the captors.

"Their demands are considerably fluid and not unified. The armed insurgents are divided into different groups and the hostages are being kept in different places," said presidential spokesperson Cheon Ho-Seon.

Cheon said the remaining 22 captives seized a week ago were still alive. A Taliban spokesperson also said no more had been killed, despite an overnight threat to continue the killings unless the insurgents' demands for a prisoner release were met.

Bae, who was killed on his 42nd birthday, was co-founder of the Saem-Mul church which sent the volunteers to Afghanistan. He had a wife and 9-year-old daughter.

The South Koreans, in their 20s and 30s, were seized while en route from Kandahar to Kabul by bus. They planned to provide free medical services.

The killing of Bae shocked the nation.

"How can the Taliban treat other people's lives as nothing?" asked Lee Myo-Ja, a Seoul housewife.

Hopes were raised by a report, later denied by Afghan and Korean officials, that eight hostages had been freed.

Then the Taliban's announcement of Bae's killing was confirmed. *AFP*

'We left hell,' Bulgarian nurses say in recounting Libyan ordeal

SOFIA—SOME OF THE FIVE BULGARIAN nurses and the Palestinian doctor released by Libya after an eight-year prison ordeal over an AIDS-infection case said Wednesday they had endured "hell" and were struggling to piece their lives back together.

They made their remarks in exhausted but happy tones to a media conference in the Bulgarian capital Sofia one day after the European Union struck a deal with Libya that secured their liberation.

As a sign of the newly cemented ties between the European bloc and the one-time pariah Arab state, French President Nicolas Sarkozy—who played a key role in clinching the medics' release—visited Tripoli Wednesday.

"We know that we are home and that we have come back to heaven from hell," one of the nurses, Kristiana Valtcheva, said in Sofia.

"We don't want to talk about the bad things we endured. We want to forget what happened over the past eight and a half years and live a normal life," she said.

Another of the nurses, Nasya Nenova, 40, added: "It is early to say how things will be from now on but now we are in a shock from freedom."

Three of the nurses did not appear at the media conference. Organizers said they were unwell.

All six medics were suffering from stress related to their extended period of captivity and from torture, doctors from a Bulgarian military hospital who examined them after their release Tuesday said. *AFP*

Jollibee opens 600th store in Aparri

Jollibee, the country's leading fastfood chain, is opening its 600th store today in the town of Aparri in Cagayan Province. It is the first fastfood chain in the country to reach the northernmost tip of Luzon, a feat that cements the company's coast-to-coast dominance.

"After opening our 500th store in Basilan, we immediately looked north," says Jose Minana, VP, National Business Unit "We are very proud to reach this part of the country for our 600th and Jollibee will definitely be at home serving the happy, hardworking citizens of Aparri," he adds.

Celebrating the store opening in the municipality is a three-day fiesta that officially starts today, starting off with a colorful motorcade along De Rivera St. and making its last stop at the 140-seater free-standing store. Fireworks will cap the first day festivities. On Friday and Saturday, Jollibee Aparri will hold a kids' concert, variety show, and a high school drum and lyre competition. Apart from the parade and shows, in-store promotions and free gifts will keep the excitement buzzing for the long line of locals expected to greet the store opening.

"It's an exciting time for all of us here in Aparri," says Ditas Mendoza, North Luzon Marketing Services Manager. "The opening of a new Jollibee store is not just about good food made more accessible. To the community, it signifies a better life for everybody. With the major chain here, other businesses may not be far behind. We've come at the right time, too, because there are efforts to spruce up the area and turn it into a boom town of trade."

Aparri is a thriving municipality in the province of Cagayan. The local government is rehabilitating Aparri's airport and vessel port to boost business in the area.

WORLDBRIEFS

Brazil's defense minister replaced amid air crisis

RIO DE JANEIRO—President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday replaced the country's defense minister, whose duties include oversight of civil aviation. The move came eight days after the deadliest air disaster in Brazilian history. With the fallout spreading from last week's accident at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport, Da Silva said he was replacing Defense Minister Waldir Pires with Nelson Jobim, a highly respected former Supreme Court president and justice minister. Da Silva said at Jobim's swearing-in ceremony that Pires had resigned voluntarily, but a government news release said he had been asked to do so. Pressure had been mounting for Da Silva to make changes after a year of chaos in the military-controlled aviation industry, with problems that included strikes of air traffic controllers, day-long delays and flight cancellations. The outrage over Pires' handling of the situation grew louder after a TAM Airlines Airbus crashed last week at Congonhas, killing 199 people. *NYT*

Panel seeks better care for US veterans

WASHINGTON—A bipartisan presidential panel called Wednesday for sweeping changes to the US military health care system months after revelations that war veterans faced dismal conditions in the country's top military hospital. At least one group representing soldiers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan demanded immediate action, and was offended by suggestions that the White House was not giving the recommendations urgent attention. President George W. Bush appointed the panel in March after news reports revealed that wounded war veterans seeking health benefits endured bureaucratic nightmares at Water Reed, the top US Army hospital. The nine-member panel called for measures to help the veterans cut through bureaucracy to get aid, called for aggressive aid to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, and urged measures to strengthen support for families of the wounded soldiers. *AFP*

Iran says it will never stop nuclear activities

TEHRAN—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday Tehran would never yield to international pressure to suspend its nuclear program. "Iran will never abandon its peaceful (nuclear) work. Our nuclear work is legal and why should we stop it?" Ahmadinejad told state television. The United States and other Western powers suspect Iran has a secret program to build nuclear weapons. The oil-producing Islamic Republic says its nuclear program is only for generation of electricity for the benefit of its economy. Two sets of UN sanctions have been imposed on Iran for defying Security Council resolutions demanding it to suspend all nuclear fuel activity. Ahmadinejad said any further UN resolutions would not prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear technology. *Reuters*

Blair feels 'sense of possibility' in Mideast

JERUSALEM—Tony Blair, the former British prime minister, on his first visit to Jerusalem in his new post as international diplomat seeking to advance Mideast peace, declared after meeting Israeli and Palestinian leaders that he felt "a sense of possibility." He declined, however, as did those he met, to explain the basis for his optimism at a time of deep political divisions and weak regional leadership. Blair is the new representative of the so-called Middle East quartet—the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations—and reportedly plans to spend a week every month in the region. He met with politicians in the Palestinian government but did not speak to the Hamas faction, elected by Palestinians and running Gaza and regarded as a terrorist group by Israel and the West. Officially, Blair's function is limited to helping the non-Hamas Palestinians in the West Bank toward future statehood. *NYT*

Humans found better bluffers than machine

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—In a match of wits between man and machine this week, a software program running on an ordinary laptop computer fought a close match, but lost to two well-known professional human poker players. The contest, which was billed as the "First Man-Machine Poker Championship" and which offered prize money totaling $50,000, pitted two professionals, Phil Laak and Ali Eslami, against a program written by a team of artificial intelligence researchers from the University of Alberta. *NYT*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ALORICA PHILIPPINES INC. 33/F & 34/F Wynsum Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Aaron Edward Langemann	Senior Shift Manager
ALEX LINCOLN TRONIXX CORP. 1311 Penafrancia St., Paco, Manila	Xiaobing Lin	Technician
NO. 1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condominium, # 7 Eisenhower St., San Juan City	Yeonim Choi	Marketing and Operations Asst. Manager
KPB-INTRA PHILS CORP. 772 Quirino Highway, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City	Dong Soo Kim	Sales Manager
KPB-INTRA PHILS CORP. 772 Quirino Highway, San Bartolome, Quezon City	Don Gu Lee	Operation Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Reza Francisco Andradi	Project Analyst
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ho Wing Kin (He Yongjian)	Project Analyst
NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/ F Philiam Life Twr., Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Teerawat Potikul	R.A. Solutions Manager
PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORPORATION 7/F The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City	Ping-Yun Wang	Vice-President for Marketing and Operations
SINGAPORE TELECOM INTERNATIONAL PTE. LTD. 12/F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chin Lock Chock	Senior Consultant
DUZON E & H IN PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Level 10-12 Tower 2, Insular Life Corporate Centre, Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sang Tae Lee	Class Manager
CHOICE KOREAN RESTAURANT 2/F Adriatico Square, M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Il Soon Choi	General Manager
DUZON PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 28/F Insular Life Bldg. 2, Filinvest, Muntinlupa City	Sung Kwun Kim	Executive Assistant to Chairman
IP E-GAME VENTURES INC. 34/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Abishek Mohan	Project Manager
EGG' S PRODUCTION INC. U-203, Makati Executive Tower II, dela Rosa St., Makati City	Kazunori Shimanoe	Assistant Corporate Secretary
EGG' S PRODUCTION INC. U-203, Makati Executive Tower II, dela Rosa St., Makati City	Takashi Eguchi	Vice President/ General Manager
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Bldg. 3, Department of Health Bldg., Rizal Ave., Santa Cruz, Manila	Peter Jensen	Public Finance Management Specialist
FILHOTEL.COM MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY, INC. LG 01-Makati Palace Hotel, P. Burgos St., Makati City	Woncheol Chun	Operations Manager
JABEZ INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER INC. 4/F SJG Ctr., Rockwell Drive, Kalayaan Ave., Makati City	Myounghwa Nam (wife of LEE)	Manager
ENUS SOFT PHILIPPINES INC. 1 Executive Office Bldg., U903, 9F cor. Col. Martinez, Quezon City	Si Young Song	President/Chairman of the Board
BOBOS STORY TOUR PHIL. CORP. 701 TM Kalaw Center, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila	Sung Yul Lee	Sales/Operations Manager
BOBOS STORY TOUR PHIL. CORP. 701 TM Kalaw Center, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila	So Young Yoo	Tour Coordinator Manager
I-FLEX SOLUTIONS (ASSIGNED AT PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK) 2/F PNB Financial Centre, Pres. D. Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Balakrishnan Nair Shaji Nottamveettil	Functional Consultant
I- FLEX SOLUTIONS (ASSIGNED AT PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK) 2/F, PNB Financial Centre, President D. Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Rajshree Raveendran Nair	Consultant
SAP PHILIPPINES SYSTEM, APPLICATION AND PRODUCTS IN DATA, INC. 32/F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Bernd Heinz Pukownick	Project Manager
APAC CUSTOMER SERVICES, INC.-PHILIPPINE BRANCH 4/F Plaza C, Northgate Cyberzone Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Tracy Marie Beck	Director of Operations
JEARY TOP METAL PRODUCTS CORPORATION 901 A. Bonifacio Avenue, Balintawak, Quezon City	Mingdeng Sun	Export Consultant
STATE BANK OF INDIA U-202 Alvion Centre, 110 Rada St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City	Panduranga Prasad Bhamidipati	Representative
LAKSH LENDING & TRADING CORP. No. 14 Main Drive, Mintcor Townhouse, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Vipan Bhagat	Finance Manager
NO. 1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condo., #7 Eisenhower St., San Juan City	Kyungtae Chung	Consultant for Marketing and Operations

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

ISABEL G. PANGANIBAN-ORTIGUERRA
Acting Regional Director

(PDI - July 27, 2007)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq's soccer joy turns into bloodbath

IRAQIS celebrating the victory of Iraq's soccer team over South Korea in Najaf, 160 km south of Baghdad, on July 25. REUTERS

50 celebrating Asian Cup triumph killed by 2 suicide car bomb attacks

BAGHDAD—THE DREAM RUN OF IRAQ'S NATIONAL SOCCER team had captivated an otherwise despairing nation. But even in its moment of joy—the Iraqis are in the Asian Cup finals for the first time ever—violence struck Wednesday. Two suicide bombers killed at least 50 people celebrating their national triumph.

The attacks bore the hallmarks of Sunni militants who have fueled the violence tearing at the fragile fabric of Iraq for nearly four years. But these bombings appeared designed to gain attention rather than target a particular sect.

At least 30 people were killed and 75 wounded in the first bombing about 6:30 p.m. A suicide attacker exploded his car in a crowd of people cheering near a famous ice cream parlor in the predominantly Sunni Mansour neighborhood in west Baghdad, according to the Interior Ministry.

The second suicide car bomber hit less than an hour later in the midst of dozens of vehicles filled with revelers near an Iraqi Army checkpoint in the eastern district of Ghadeer, a mix of Sunnis, Shiites and Christians. At least 20 people died and nearly 60 were wounded, the ministry said.

The barbarity of Wednesday's bombings will be remembered for what they abruptly ended.

Qusai Bilal, a 35-year-old Sunni grocer from Ghadeer, was watching the unusual sight of a street party outside his store. Young people danced and waved flags when tragedy struck.

"A huge blast occurred and, in a second, converted the glorious scene to a black one," he said.

Ahmed Sattar, who makes a living selling kebab cooked on a sidewalk grill in the district:

"I can't imagine what I had seen," said the 28-year-old Shiite. "The terrorist changed the happiness to sorrow, sadness. The place of joy was converted to a massacre in a matter of seconds. I'm wondering why?"

University student Ahmad Mudhar, a Shiite, and his 7-year-old brother were celebrating in Mansour when the bomber struck, waving the Iraq flag, singing along with hundreds of other revelers. The brothers walked home heartbroken, shaken.

"Even during the moments of happiness, the powers of evil and terrorism cause tragedy," said Mudhar. Iraqis, he predicted, would return to the streets in celebration "to shame the terrorists" if Iraq wins the cup.

The revelers were celebrating Iraq's semifinal win over South Korea in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. Iraq won a tense penalty shootout 4-3 after the two sides played to a scoreless draw in 90 minutes regulation and 30 minutes extra time.

Iraq will now meet Saudi Arabia Sunday in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The casualties from the two suicide attacks were not the day's only soccer tragedies.

Celebratory gunfire that filled the Baghdad sky with bullets within seconds of the victory killed at least three people and 19 wounded, according to initial police reports.

State Iraqiya television, perhaps eager not to diminish Iraqi joy, withheld the news of any deaths for at least four hours.

Five people were killed in the gunfire celebration Sunday's quarterfinal win over Vietnam and the surprise 3-1 triumph over Australia in the group stages.

Thousands danced, beat drums and sang. Traffic was snarled in much of the capital as cars, Iraqi flags flying from their windows, moved slowly through choking crowds of fans on foot. Motorists honked their horns and young people sprayed water on each other. *AP*

World urged to help Jordan, Syria cope with Iraqi refugees

LONDON—GLOBAL RIGHTS WATCHdog Amnesty International on Thursday urged the international community to urgently help Jordan and Syria cope with an influx of Iraqi refugees.

London-based Amnesty issued the plea for countries to offer financial aid to Iraq's two Arab neighbors and for them to admit Iraqi refugees, as a meeting aimed at helping Iraqi refugees was to open Thursday in the Jordanian capital Amman.

"More than two million Iraqis have now fled the sectarian violence raging in their country and almost two million others are internally displaced," said Malcolm Smart, director of Amnesty's Middle East and North Africa Program.

"Most of the refugees have escaped to Syria and Jordan, placing great demands on these countries' resources and threatening a humanitarian crisis that could engulf the region unless concerted international action is taken now," he said in a statement.

Amnesty praised Syria for keeping its borders open to Iraqi refugees. An estimated 30,000 new Iraqi refugees arrive every month in Syria, which already hosts 1.5 million Iraqis.

Jordan has about 750,000 Iraqis, including people who had fled before the 2003 US-led invasion, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"The Syrian authorities have responded very positively to the Iraqis' needs, but they and the Jordanian authorities should not be left to bear the weight of this crisis alone," Smart said.

Amnesty also urged the United States, Britain and other nations to follow the lead of Denmark, which is taking in Iraqis who worked as interpreters. *AFP*

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WHAT'S INSIDE
All-Arab duel for Asian Cup title /A28

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Rasmussen sacking shakes Tour/A28

Eagles slip past Archers in OT

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FIERCE RIVALRY MISSED for a season needed an extra period to settle.

And the Ateneo Blue Eagles showed that a lot has changed as they outlasted the La Salle Green Archers in overtime, 80-77, yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball competition at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

"The guys really had a lot of desire and hunger," said Ateneo coach Norman Black, who won his first game against La Salle since dropping three encounters in 2005.

"We did a good job in rebounding and in our inside game. Our perimeter guys also hit their shots."

Jai Reyes, nephew of national coach Chot Reyes, provided several rapid-fire point production in the second half to finish with a career-high 18 points for Ateneo.

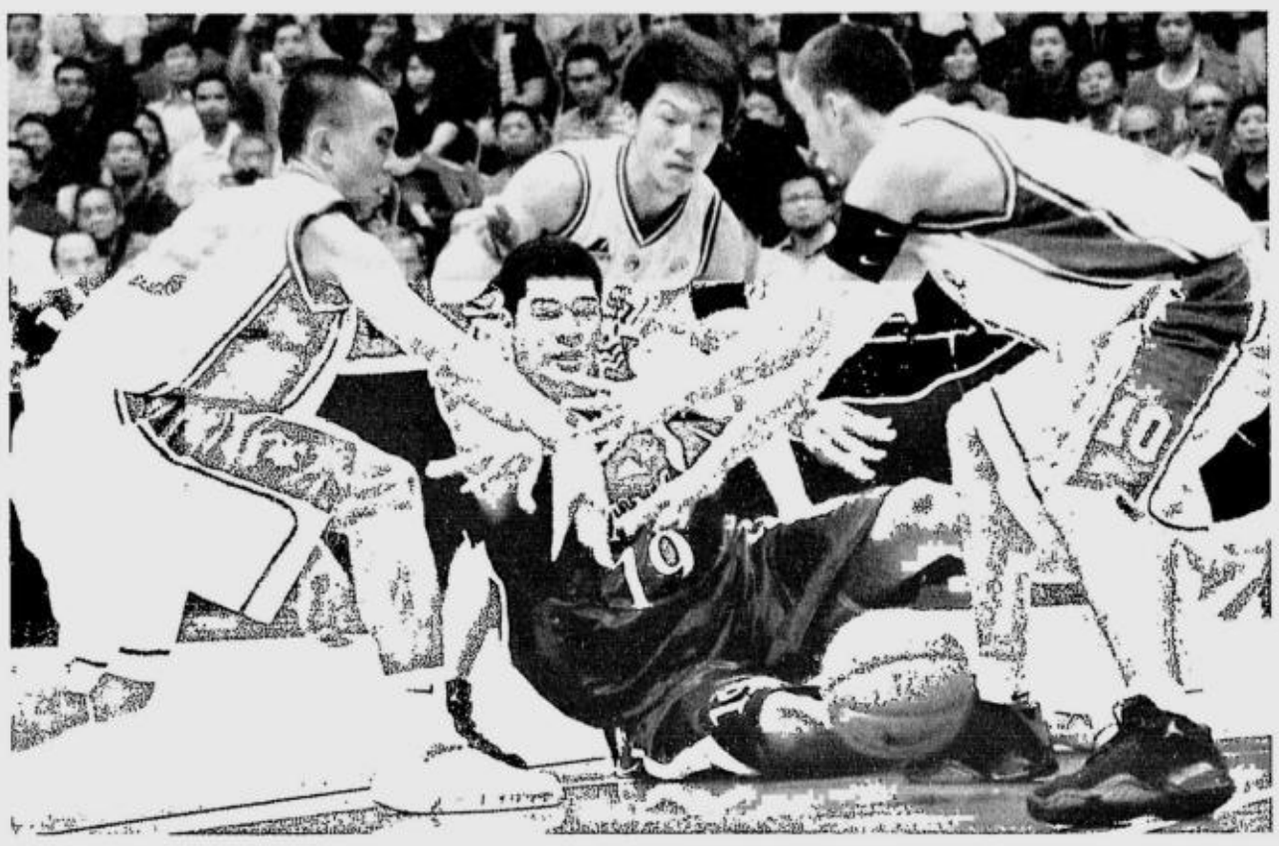
Also stepping up at crunch time was Chris Tiu, who nailed a triple with 21.1 seconds remaining to put the Eagles up at 78-74, after the Archers had moved within 75-74.

Tiu finished with 15 points, including two buffer free throws with 9.9 ticks left after a pair of Rico Maierhoffer charities kept the Archers within striking distance, 78-76.

It was the Eagles' first victory in seven meetings with the Archers since 2004.

While the Eagles claimed solo second at 4-1 behind the undefeated University of the East, the Archers absorbed a second straight loss to settle at 3-2 in a tie with the Santo Tomas Tigers.

The defending champion Tigers earlier clinched a third straight victory with an 83-72 triumph over the National University Bulldogs.



LA SALLE'S James Mangahas, TY Tang and Rico Maierhofer (from left) gang up on Ateneo's Rabeh Al-Hussaini in yesterday's game at the jampacked Big Dome. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Dylan Ababou fired eight of his 18 points in the final quarter to help the Tigers stave off a Bulldogs' comeback from a double-digit deficit.

"Every game we're improving," said coach Pido Jarencio. "We've adjusted our game. We lost two straight, but there were lessons learned."

Eagle Ford Arao buried a short stab with 13 seconds remaining to forge the extra period at 67-67 after a Cholo Villanueva layup put the Archers on top, 67-65, with 32.5 seconds left.

The Archers had a chance to claim the game in regulation, but Maierhofer missed a potential game-winning jumper at the buzzer.

Reyes and Kirk Log opened the extra period with back-to-back jumpers to push the Eagles up, 71-67, with 3:15 minutes left.

And Arao kept them steady as the Eagles held JV Casio to a bucket in overtime after the streaky veteran exploded with 15 points in the last six minutes of regulation, including a jumper that knotted the contest at 65, with 1:25 left.

The scores:

First Game

UST 83—Ababou 18, Cuan 12, Espiritu 10, Cortez 10, Mirza 9, Canlas 9, Taylor 9, Cruz 6, Allera 2, Gile 0, Dizon 0.

NU 72—Fernandez 27, Aguilar 10, Asoro 10, Lingao-Lingao 8, Ponferrada 7, Jahnke 4, Garcia 2, Salvado 2, Catamora 2, Terso 0, Baloran 0, Luy 0, Malagueño 0,

Quarters: 18-13, 34-31, 57-54, 83-72

Second Game

ATENEO 80—Reyes 18, Tiu 15, Arao 14, Nkemakolam8, Al-Hussaini 7, Long 6, Baclao 5, Salamat 4, Monfort 3, Escueta 0, Laterrre 0, Barracoso 0.

LA SALLE 77—Casio 21, Maierhofer 19, Villanueva 14, Walsham 6, Tang 6, Malabes 5, Ferdinand 2, Mangahas 2, Barua 2, Lee 0, Ilad 0, Co 0.

Quarters: 15-19, 30-30, 49-44, 67-67 (reg), 80-77 (OT)

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Olympic body set to trim down SEAG bets to 500

By June Navarro

THE CANDIDATE-ATHLETES FOR THE SOUTHeast Asian Games will be pruned down to at least 500 to ensure that the country will have a credible representation in the Thailand Games set Dec. 6-16.

The Philippine Olympic Committee said the decision to reduce the original 739 bets, approved recently by the POC-Philippine Sports Commission SEAG Task Force, gives the remaining aspirants better chances of performing well in RP's bid to retain the overall championship.

"This will ensure that Team Philippines members will be well-provided for using all available resources," said POC deputy secretary-general Mark Joseph.

The swim chief said the remaining aspirants will now have unlimited use of the training centers, enjoy better food, quality coaching and critical foreign exposures for the athletes five months before the Games.

"Sending home the athletes who are not qualified will open space for the selected athletes in the PSC quarters and, at the same time, optimize the use of limited funds," said Joseph.

Joseph also said that all team sports will not be left out, including those which failed to land a medal in 2005 and those set to see action in 2007 for the first time.

Football and volleyball failed to win medals in the 2005 Manila Games while futsal, polo and rugby will be introduced in the biennial meet for the first time. Volleyball, however, had already begged off from fielding its men's and women's squad in the indoor category.

"Some team sports, however, will have to get funds from private sources," said Joseph, adding the final lineup of the delegation will be out not later than Aug. 30.

Alaska rewards Miller with maximum offer

By Musong R. Castillo

MILLER: Valuable

WILLIE MILLER, who won a second Philippine Basketball Association MVP award while helping Alaska win the Fiesta Cup, will receive the maximum allowable salary from the Aces as a renewal offer today.

The 6-foot guard, who also won the Finals MVP trophy, will be offered P350,000 a month in basic pay for the next three years when Alaska management and Miller's agent sit down to discuss a new contract.

Both the pay and the length of the contract are the maximum allowed by league rules, and team manager Joaqui Trillo yesterday told the INQUIRER over the phone that his team is bent on keeping Miller.

"Alaska is prepared to offer him whatever the maximum is," Trillo said. "We will definitely keep Willie and we are sure that he wants to stay an Ace."

Miller, who won his first MVP while with Red Bull, was the biggest reason why the Aces outsteadied the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals over seven gripping games for the Fiesta Cup title.

The championship ended a seven-year title drought for Alaska and marked the coming of a new cornerstone in Miller, who was acquired from Talk 'N Text last year when Jimmy Alapag assumed the starting guard slot there.

Miller took over in the final two games of the series, scoring a career-high 37 points in Game 6 before coming up with the crucial plays in the rubber match.

Trillo added that Nic Belasco and Jeffrey Cariaso, who have expiring contracts, will be offered similar lucrative deals.

There are a total of 80 players whose contracts have ended or will expire in the next two months, among them San Miguel Beer's Danny Seigle, Ginebra's Jayjay Helterbrand and Purefoods' James Yap and Marc Pingris.

DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-521 Series of 2007

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Slazenger Footwear SRP P3,000 P1,500
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PETRON Fuel Success.

Race champion's wife sets history

Anton first lady winner of Italy race

By Roy Luarca

FROM ARDENT CHEERER TO CHAMPION car racer.

That's the amazing transformation Karen Navarrete-Anton underwent in just one week recently.

Karen, a Polynesian Dance School owner who used to cheer whenever her multititled racer-husband Anton is competing, found she also has the knack for competition driving when she emerged overall champion in the Marlboro Red Racing Competition at the Ferrari-owned Varano race track in Italy.

In doing so, Karen became the first lady driver and first Filipino to capture the crown since the event was launched worldwide in 2004.

Karen clocked the fastest time in the GT drift race using an Alfa Romeo, besting 19 men and lady racers from Ukraine, Russia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Dubai, South Africa, Bulgaria and the Philippines.

Karen also topped the Autocross race and shone in other events at the Fiorano Track.

And the amazing thing is, Karen only learned how to drive a manual car a week before she went to Italy.

"Carlos brought me down to the race track in Subic for one day to teach me how to drive with a stick shift," said Karen, who calls Baguio City home.

ANTON: Fastest clip

"I guess what made me do well in Italy is the fact that my training in driving was geared toward racing and not city driving. Carlos is my number one supporter and he is an extremely patient and amazing teacher."

"I've always believed that Karen has what it takes to be a champion that is why I encouraged her to join the MRRS," said Carlos, who also won the MRRS Autocross race in Italy in 2004.

In Italy, Karen got the chance to race the Alfa Romeo GTA, the Ferrari 360 and was able to ride in a special 3-seater Ferrari Formula 1 car driven by Formula 1 driver Luca Badoer.

During the farewell dinner, Karen brought the house down with solo dance number at Luciano Pavarotti's famous restaurant in Varano.

30th nat'l taekwondo kicks off tomorrow

THE PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO ASSOCIATION'S only annual team event—the 30th Petron/Smart national championships—kicks off on Saturday and Sunday at the Rizal Coliseum.

According to PTA president Robert N. Aventajado, national jins will see action for their respective club teams.

About 2,000 athletes representing teams all over the country are expected to vie for medals.

Organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong said the participation of at least 12 regions like ARMM, CAR, Caraga and NCR and the various Armed Forces of the Philippines commands and the Philippine National Police will further add stock to the event.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez have been invited to grace the opening rites.

UP Open starts at Valley today

THE ANNUAL U.P. OPEN Golf Championship tees off at 7:30 p.m. today at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo, Rizal. Dubbed as the Pre-Centennial UP Open, the tournament is part of the year-long activities leading up to the 100th year of the state university. Event organizers hope to raise funds for the UP Carillon Restoration & Park Fund. Proceeds will also go to the UP Students Fund.

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Knights, Lions tackle lowly rivals

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	5	1
San Beda	5	1
S Sebastian	3	3
Jose Rizal	3	3
Perpetual	2	4
Mapua	2	4
St. Benilde	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
2 p.m.—Letran vs St. Benilde (Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Srs)

A LEGION OF KNIGHTS FRESH FROM A VICtory and a pack of wounded—and angry—Red Lions.

That is what lowly teams St. Benilde and Mapua expect to face today at the start of the second round of eliminations in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Arena in San Juan.

Co-leader Letran buckles down to work against lowly St. Benilde at 2 p.m. with the Knights still inspired by their thrilling conquest of erstwhile unbeaten Red Lions last Wednesday.

The Red Lions will try to soothe their bruised ego when they take on the struggling Mapua Cardinals in the main game at 4 p.m.

With their 70-69 triumph over the Red Lions last Wednesday, the Knights are the clear favorites over the Blazers, who are in the cellar with five losses in six games.

"Today we executed our plays well, if we can do them the rest of the way, we have a good chance in the Final Four," said Letran coach Louie Alas after his charges dealt the Red Lions their first loss of the season.

The Knights crushed the Blazers, 92-81, in their first meeting.

The Red Lions' main man, Sam Ekwe, is a doubtful starter due to an injury, although he was not around when San Beda beat Mapua in their first-round clash, 87-77.

Ekwe, the 2006 Rookie-MVP awardee, hurt his foot in practice recently and played against the Knights still in pain. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Amonsot cleared, arriving tomorrow

AMONSOT

FILIPINO BOXER CZAR AMONsot checked out of the Valley Hospital in Las Vegas yesterday afternoon after he was given a clean bill of health by neuro-specialist Dr. Debra Nelson.

Michael Aldeguer, head of Cebu's ALA Boxing Gym, and top Filipino promoter Sammy Gello-ani fetched Amonsot at the hospital where he underwent final CT and MRI scans that showed he is free of blood clot.

Amonsot was brought to the hospital Sunday after his defeat by unanimous decision to WBO interim lightweight champion Michael Katsidis of Australia.

Initial hospital findings showed that Amonsot sustained a blood clot in the brain after absorbing severe head blows during the fight.

Amonsot is expected to arrive in Manila tomorrow. He will face the Cebu media in the afternoon.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

KARTING FEAT

Madrigal wins on standard engine

DESPITE DRIVING AN INFERIOR ENgine, karting prodigy Alessandra Madrigal proved a point recently when she ruled the Rotax Max Senior category in the second round of the Asian Karting Open Championship at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

Her team, Alessandra Racing, had an option to use a technologically advanced engine, but the 11-year-old Madrigal sped to victory with an engine that was the standard in the event.

She also finished second overall in the premier F125 Open Class behind compatriot Stefano Marcelo, the only entry who used a superior KF2 engine.

"I could have purchased the same type of engine or even a quicker one than Stefano's that could have more or less guaranteed victory for Alessandra," Gerard Madrigal, Alessandra Racing principal, stressed after the race.

MADRIGAL takes a victory ride.

"But what's the point of victory if the only reason you win is that you have a faster engine than anyone else?"

The win was the fifth in eight races this year for Madrigal, whose stint in the Asian Karting Open is backed by Petron, Chicago City Day School, Skinfood, Oakley and Savage Designs.

Daniel Cleak finished third in the premier F125 Open Class, followed by another Alessandra Racing driver, Maico Angeles, who charged all the way from the back of the 15-kart field.

Madrigal drove superbly against older and more experienced rivals from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Her performance was lauded by many observers who agreed victory was a foregone conclusion for Marcelo considering he was the only driver who used the KF2 engine, which was faster than anything else on the track.

US Girls golf: Cyna bows out in Round of 32

CYNA RODRIGUEZ BLEW A TWO-HOLE LEAD WITH THREE LATE bogeys and lost, 1-up, to Michelle Shin of Florida in their Round-of-32 match Wednesday in the 2007 US Girls Junior Golf Championship at the Tacoma Golf and Country in Lakewood, Washington.

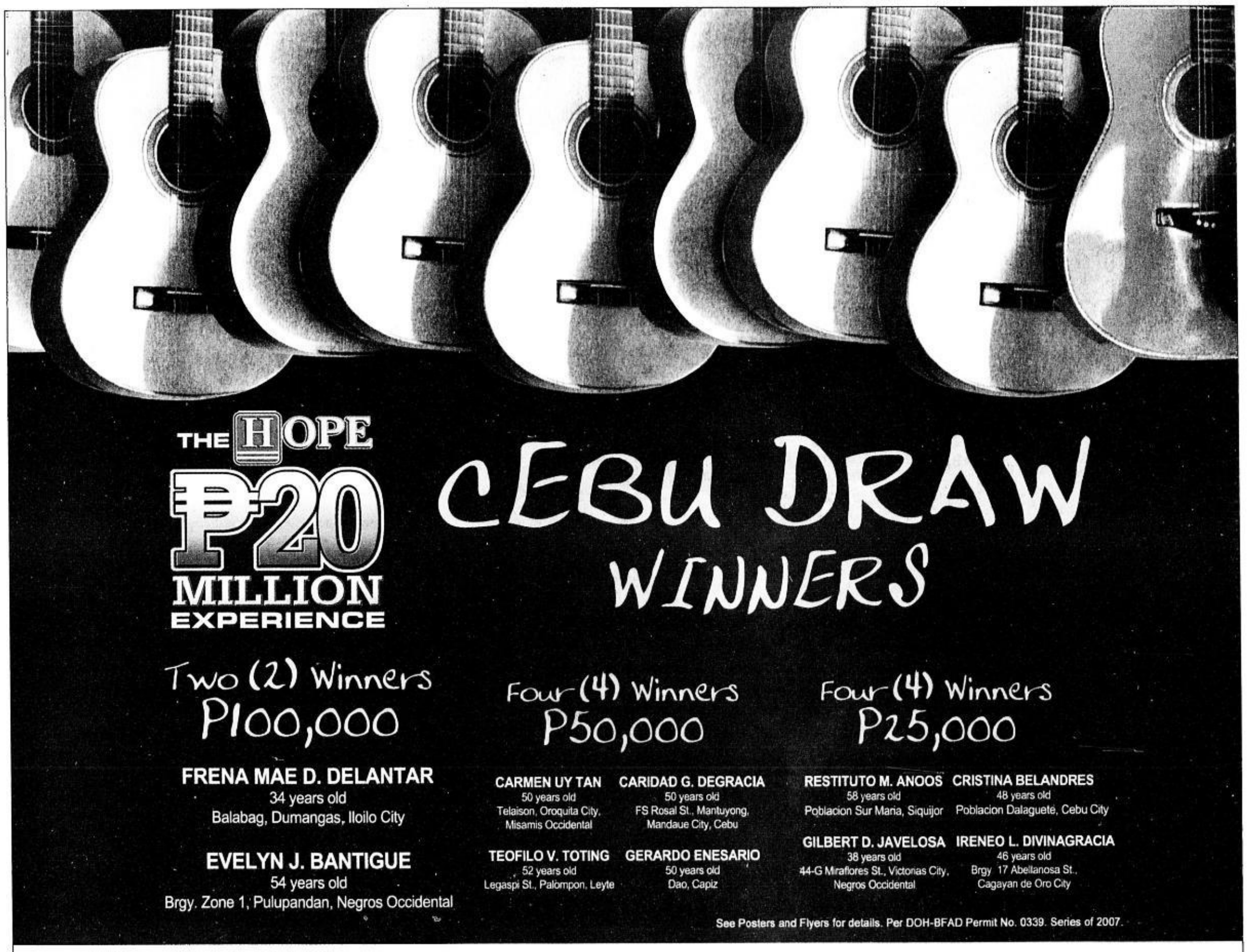
It was a disappointing setback for the 15-year-old Rodriguez, who appeared headed for a stint in the Last 16 when she birdied the par-3 No. 15 to go 2-up over Shin.

But she three-putted the par-5 16th for bogey, dropped a shot on No. 17 and cracked under pressure with another bogey on 18.

Earlier, Rodriguez, the only RP entry who made it to the match play phase of the annual event, birdied the two closing par-5s as she battled back from two holes down to turn back Alison Lee of California, 1-up, in the first round of match play.

Meanwhile, two reigning USGA champions, Kimberly Kim and Mina Harigae, each won two matches to advance to the Last 16.

Over in New York, Jay Bayron groped for form against tough opposition with a 79 at the start of the Porter Cup at the Niagara Falls Country Club in Buffalo Wednesday.



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SPORTS

All-Arab duel for Asian Cup title

HANOI—IRAQ BROUGHT WIDESPREAD JOY to their war-torn country on Wednesday by sinking South Korea to reach their first Asian Cup final.

The Iraqis' 4-3 penalty shootout victory over the Koreans set up an all-Arab clash with Saudi Arabia, which shattered Japan's dreams of a third straight title with a pulsating 3-2 win in Hanoi.

Goalkeeper Noor Sabri was Iraq's hero after saving South Korea's fourth spot kick from Yeom Ki-hun to leave the 2002 World Cup semifinalists shell-shocked in rainy Kuala Lumpur.

"I'd like to congratulate all my people in Iraq for this great victory," Sabri told reporters. "We know we are struggling inside Iraq and we have to struggle on the field.

"This is a very modest thing we can give to our people."

Iraq had never before advanced further than the last four of the continent's premier competition.

South Korea coach Pim Verbeek remained defiant after his side's surprise defeat and refused to speculate on his future.

"If people think that was not good enough, that is not my problem—it is a problem for the Korean people," the Dutchman snapped. "I've made my decision already (on the future) but I'm not going to tell you what it is."

There was also high drama in Hanoi as Saudi Arabia finally broke its Asian Cup jinx against holder Japan with Malek Maaz scoring twice in an end-to-end game.

The Saudi striker sent his country into its sixth final in the last seven tournaments with a fine solo goal, wriggling past three defenders before smashing the ball into the top corner.

"We're delighted," Saudi coach Helio Cesar dos Anjos told reporters. "To beat the best team in Asia means so much. It was the best game of the Asian Cup."

Saudi Arabia, which lifted the Asian Cup in 1984, 1988 and 1996, faces Iraq in Jakarta on Sunday.

The Saudis had never previously beaten Japan at the Asian Cup, including defeats in the 1992 and 2000 finals, but they were the sharper team throughout.

Japan, who had beaten Australia in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals, take on South Korea in the third-place playoff in Palembang, Indonesia, on Saturday. *Reuters*

SAUDI Arabian defender Kamil Al Mousa (right) and Japan's Yasuhito Endo vie for possession during their Asia Football Cup semifinal. AFP

Rasmussen sacking shakes Tour

COL D'AUBISQUE, FRANCE—THE TOUR de France lurched into a fresh crisis on Wednesday when race leader Michael Rasmussen was sacked by his Rabobank team and a second rider in 24 hours was announced to have failed a doping test.

The Dane had pulled further clear of his main rivals with a gutsy stage victory earlier in the day but his team said he would not start Thursday's 17th stage after lying to them over his training whereabouts last month.

Rabobank director Theo de Rooy was quoted on Dutch TV as saying: "Several times he said where he was training and it proved to be wrong. The management of the team received that information several times and today we received new information."

REUTERS

RASMUSSEN: Dropped by Rabobank

The team said the Dane had told them he was in Mexico when he had in fact been in Italy.

Rabobank said in statement late on Wednesday: "Rabobank is shocked and enormously disappointed that Rasmussen has lied about his whereabouts."

Rasmussen's dismissal is possibly the biggest hammer-blow to the Tour's credibility following hard on the heels of positive dope tests on pre-race favorite Alexander Vinokourov on Tuesday and Italy's Cristian Moreni on Wednesday.

Rasmussen, 33, had already received two warnings from the UCI for failing to provide the sport's governing body with his personal schedule.

UCI president Pat McQuaid told Reuters by phone: "I wonder why they did not make the decision when they had all the information in June. However, it is a zero tolerance policy and I can only applaud it."

Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme told Reuters: "The important thing is not that he has been sacked by his team but that he will not be at the start of the stage tomorrow."

Cofidis rider Moreni's positive test was announced less than a day after the Tour was rocked by the news of Vinokourov's blood-doping violation.

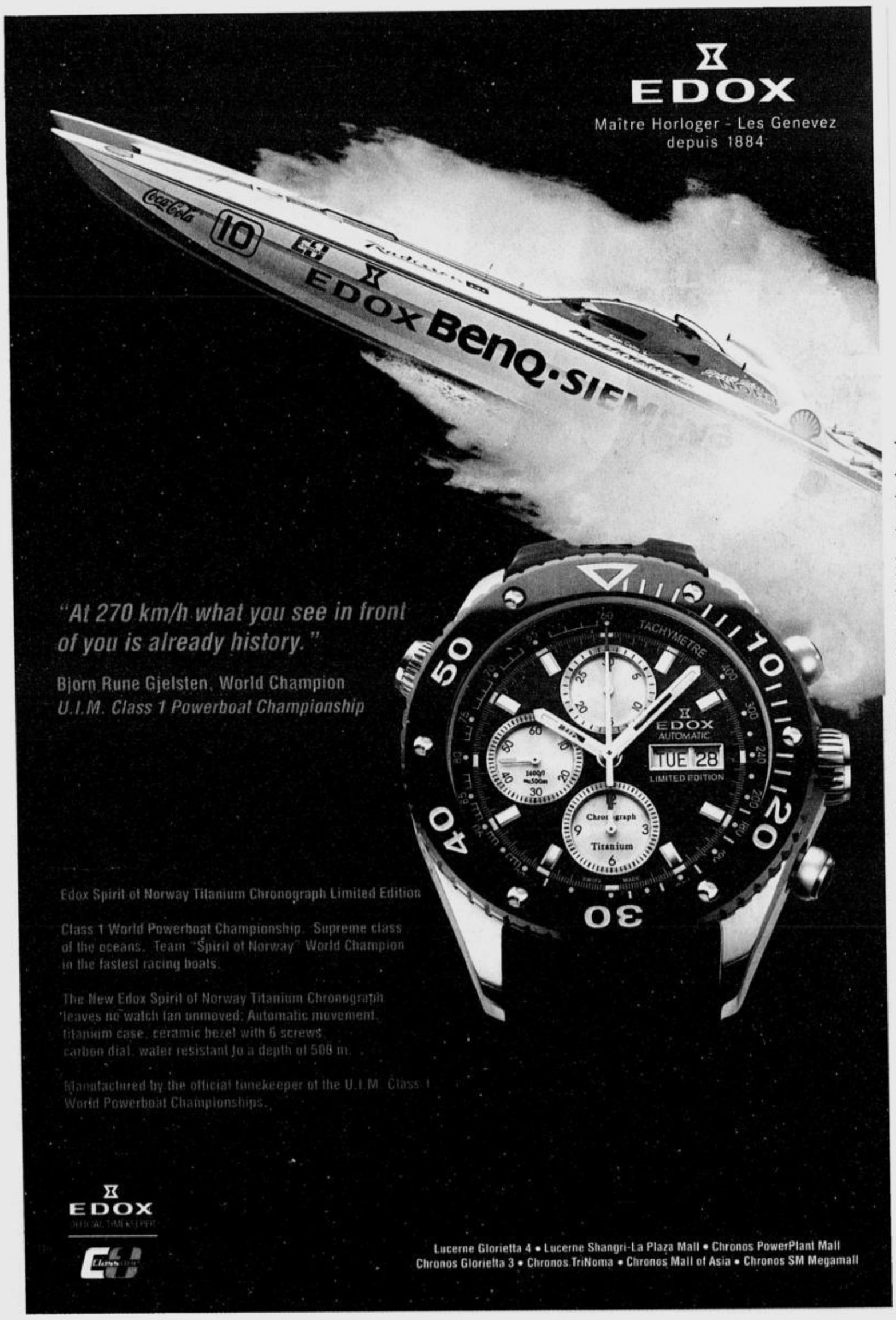
The 34-year-old, Italian champion in 2004, failed a dope test for the male sex hormone testosterone after last Thursday's 11th stage from Marseille to Montpellier.

Race jury president Didier Simon told reporters on Wednesday Moreni he had three hours to request an analysis of the B sample but had not asked for it.

Cofidis later announced they were withdrawing from the Tour, joining Vinokourov's Astana on the sidelines.

"It's the only thing to do in such circumstances," Cofidis president Francois Migraine said.

Patrice Clerc, president of organizers ASO, agreed: "It's a responsible decision. It is sad because I know this team has made a lot of efforts to fight for a clean sport." *Reuters*



Ozamiz five draws first blood in semis

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING champion Ozamiz Cotta remained on track for a fourth straight title in the Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament Wednesday night by blasting the Pagadian Explorers, 114-92, at the start of their best-of-three semifinal series at the Gov. Medina Sr. gym here.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers pulled away from Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers after the first quarter. Ozamiz led 57-41 at the turn and put the game beyond recall, 82-59.

Bruce Dacia and Gerry Cavan finished with 29 and 20 points, respectively, as the champs moved a step closer to the finals.

Firefly-Iligan and Toyota-Iloilo were playing in Game 1 of their semifinals series at presstime.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 114—Dacia 29, Cavan 20, Bansil 11, Delina 8, Sampilo 7, Gaturnbato 7, Liangco 7, Alberto 7, Nicdao 6, Tiongson 4, Basco 3, Balares 2, Libalog 0.

PAGADIAN 92—Orquillas 19, Saludsod 14, Mamaclay 9, Daja 8, Cortez 7, Naron 7, Asaytono 7, Pamaran 4, Arquero 4, Omandam 4, Villaver 3, Sinco 2, Huelar 2, Singedas 2, Quilo 0.

Quarters: 24-22, 57-41, 82-59, 114-92

Landicho tops PAGT leg by one at Riviera

FORMER NATIONAL PLAYER LUCY Landicho fired a three-over-par 75 Wednesday to rule the ladies division in the 2nd leg of the Pilipinas Amateur Golf Tour presented by Samsung at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

Counting her 77 in the first round, Landicho posted a 152 total at the Couples course to thwart the challenge of Ara Chae (73) and Louise Manalo (80), who both wound up with 153.

Chae took runner-up honors via the countback. Former Philippine Ladies titlist Milet Villaroman settled for fourth with an 81-154.

In Class B, Inez Del Rosario won with a 78-156, two strokes up on Beth Menchavez (80-158).

South Korean Park Hyun-sook bested Fely Maglabe in a playoff to clinch the Class C plum. Park carded a 91 for 185, the same total submitted by Maglabe after a 97.

Men's action saw Brixton Aw grabbing the Class A lead with a 76, one shot up on Rodel Mangulabnan and Joe Lao, who scored 77s.

AJ Salvador also took a one-stroke lead in Class B with an 83. Trailing him with 84s were Danny Pizarro, Park Sang-woo and Roberto Alvarez.

SPORTSWATCH

5 cockers share 'Rambulan' championship

FIVE PARTICIPANTS RULED THE 228-ENTRY "RAMBULAN" 6-COCK DERBY Tuesday night at San Juan Coliseum. With identical 6-0 win-loss slates after seven days of competition were the entries of Rio Salceda of Bicol, Jun Topacio, Totoy Haruta, Allan Siaco and derby host Rodolfo Pineda. Meanwhile, the SJC Super Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan starts at 7 a.m. tomorrow at the same venue, said pit manager Renato Shio who expects no less than 200 entries. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725 -6563.

35 entries in Makati derby Monday

THIRTY-FIVE COCKERS AND DERBY REGULARS FROM METRO MANILA HAVE signed up for a 3-cock derby at Makati Coliseum on Monday with B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador as sponsors. The champions will receive a guaranteed prize of P300,000, said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. Entries must be submitted on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. only. Three cockers topped the recent WTJ 3-Cock Derby, namely, Ram Lopez (R and A); Amor Salvanera (Kalayaan) and Diko Cesar (RGA).

Pasay 3-cocker under way today

MORE THAN 50 FIGHTS SPICE UP A 3-COCK DERBY TONIGHT AT PASAY CITY Cockpit, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as main backer. The derby comes on the heels of last week's 157-entry PCC 21st Anniversary 6-Cock Derby won by Gerry Ramos and the Primallion Brothers of Zamboanga with their entry Against All Odds. Ansel Cordura of Pasay, Gerald Vandolf Go of Sta. Ana Cockpit and Angelo Estrellado of Laguna have joined forces to stage this one-day cockfest which offers a P150,000 prize pot.

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Singapore bloc wins Masinloc bid

At $930M, Masinloc Power Partners submits best offer

By Abigail L. Ho

MASINLOC POWER PARTNERS CO. LTD., A UNIT of Singapore-based AES Transpower Pte. Ltd., bested five other bidders for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant with a bid of $930 million.

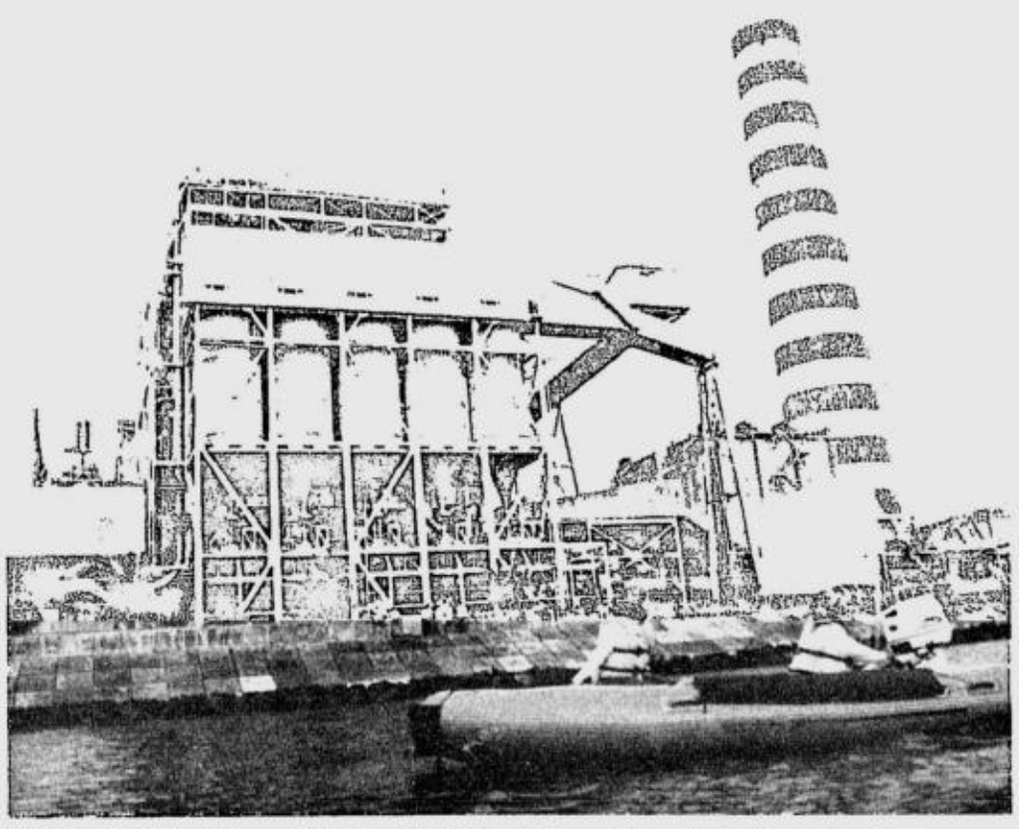
According to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., the company's Singapore parent is an investment holding and service company for entities that generate, sell, supply, transmit, trade, and accumulate electricity and electro-motive force.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the sale of the Masinloc plant for such a high price indicated strong investor confidence in PSALM.

"The positive result of the Masinloc bidding comes at the heels of the successful conclusion of the sale of Mirant's power assets in the Philippines to a consortium of Tokyo Electric Power Corp. and Marubeni Corp., and the recent privatization of (PNOC Energy Development Corp.), with majority of its ownership now in the hands of the investing public," he said. "These are all indications of investors' strong confidence in the prospects of the country's energy sector."

The winning bid for the Masinloc plant was almost double the

SINGAPORE/ B2



THE 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired facility in Zambales continues to be the apple of power bidders' eyes. INQUIRER PHOTO

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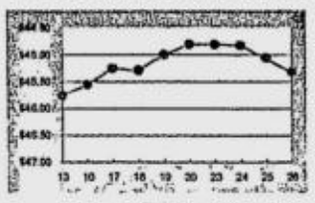

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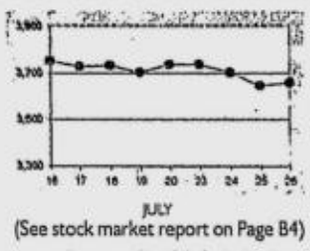
As of 5 p.m., July 26, 2007

STOCK MARKET



JULY

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 0.4% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.4 percent higher as bargain-hunters sought out blue chips following heavy losses earlier this week, dealers said.

A modest rebound on Wall Street also helped lift the market.

SHARES/ B9

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DBS revises peso forecast /B9

IMF reduces Asean growth forecast for '07, '08

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE FOUR EMERGING ECONOMIES of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are expected to grow at a slightly slower pace this year and next, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday.

In its periodic World Economic Outlook update, the IMF said that the economies of the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia would grow by an average of 5.4 percent in 2007 and 5.7 percent in 2008.

The gross domestic product (GDP) projections for the so-called "Asean 4" for this year and next are both lower by 0.1 percentage point.

The region grew by an average of 5.1 and 5.4 percent in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

For this year, the IMF expects the Philippine economy to grow by 5.8 percent based on its projections made last summer. It expects the same growth rate for 2008.

It also expects the country's inflation rate to stand at 4 percent for both 2007 and 2008.

At the same time, however, the 185-nation multilateral funding agency predicted that the global economy would grow at a faster pace this year from its initial forecast.

The IMF said that global growth is now projected at 5.2 percent in 2007 and 2008—0.3 percentage point higher for both years than projected earlier this year.

The IMF warned, however, that the overall balance of risks to the global growth outlook "remains tilted modestly to the downside," unchanged from its

IMF CUTS/ B9

Gov't sets '08 revenue collection target at P1.236T

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT has set a collection target of P1.236 trillion for 2008, intent on finally balancing the budget next year after being in the red since the late 1990s, following the Asian financial crisis.

According to the interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the body tasked with setting the government's economic and fiscal targets, next year's revenue goal will represent 17 percent of the estimated gross domestic product growth for 2008.

Of the total revenue target, P1.109 trillion will come from the taxes and duties to be collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and other offices.

This translates to a 15.2-percent tax effort—an indicator that is closely being watched by credit rating firms.

Tax effort is the amount of tax collection over GDP. It is a measure of the government's capability to turn economic growth into revenue.

The BIR alone is tasked to collect P845 billion in taxes next year, while the BOC is directed to turn in P254.5 billion in taxes and duties on imported goods.

Other offices are expected to turn in P9.5 billion to state coffers.

Meanwhile, P127.3 billion in nontax revenue will account for the rest of next year's total revenue goal.

Of the nontax revenue, income from the Bureau of the Treasury accounts for P57.3 billion. The BTr is the one in charge in collecting dividends from state-owned firms on behalf of the national government. It likewise earns from investing excess cash in foreign-currency denominated instruments, like US Treasuries.

Other expected nontax proceeds include the P29.7 billion to be generated by the government's privatization thrust, and the P40.3 billion to come from fees and charges collected by government agencies.

The government this year hopes to sell big-ticket assets, like its stakes in San Miguel Corp., Manila Electric Co. and Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp.

Also, according to finance officials, there are still other huge assets that may be up for sale next year, such as the Food Terminals Inc. property in Taguig.

With expenditures programmed to reach P1.236 trillion next year, the government expects to wipe out its deficit, which started to accumulate in 1998.

For this year, the DBCC estimate that revenue will reach P1.119 trillion. Of the amount, the BIR and the BOC will account for the biggest share of P741.3 billion and P223.2 billion, respectively.

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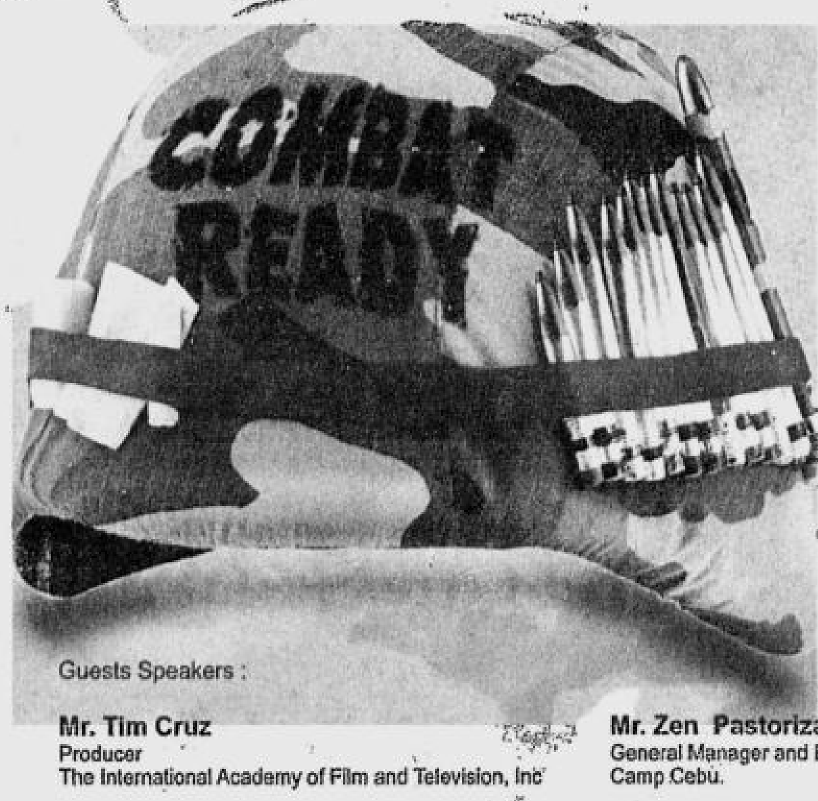

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Bottoms-up business planning

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

ON JULY 25, THIS REPORT CAME OUT: "IN A two-day workshop this week, Department of Agriculture (DA) officials are scheduled to present overviews of the programs on the production of major farm commodities, such as rice, corn, coconut, high value commercial crops, and livestock."

In addition, discussions will be conducted on "the progress of the department's various projects, which include barangay food terminals, *bagsakan*, or drop-off, projects, coconut inter-cropping, irrigation facilities, small water impounding projects, farm-to-market roads, and post-harvest facilities."

This performance review, conducted in the middle of the annual performance period, is commendable. Any weakness can be identified and corrected now, while best practices can be duplicated for more extensive application throughout the year.

Provincial workshop

It is recommended that, in the next three months, a three-day live-in workshop should be conducted in each province with similar agricultural planning objectives. This must use a decentralized bottoms-up business systems approach that will complement the centrally planned national objectives.

The local government unit should take charge of the agricultural development in its area and begin conducting provincial workshops, as mandated by the Local Government Code.

This effort may be initiated by the DA and the multi-sectoral Provincial Agricultural and Fisheries Council (PAFC).

The provincial governor should be on hand to open or close the workshop and show his or her commitment to agriculture. Local government officials, such as the provincial agricultural officer and all municipal agricultural officers must also participate in the workshop.

Key agriculture officials, such as the DA regional executive director, professors and researchers of relevant state universities, colleges and institutions offering appropriate agricultural technologies, selected PAFC members, as well as farmer and fisherfolk leaders, are also expected to attend the event.

But before the workshop is conducted, there must be a completed draft of a Provincial Agriculture Plan, patterned after a standard format provided by the DA. A committee of three, representing the LGU, the DA, and the private sector, can submit a draft of the plan.

Product planning format

In addition, serving as attachments to the provincial agriculture plan will be product plans. An example of such a plan may have a draft format *(see table)* that contains key agricultural commodities in the province.

The first task is to find out markets the province wishes to address, then identify the key products that will fill the market's needs. For each product, there should be a quantified target for accomplishment, with lead persons identified from the LGU, the DA, and the private sector. This is to help ensure the involvement, commitment, and twin aspects of responsibility and accountability of the lead key persons.

Business systems approach

For each product, the four components of the business systems approach must be covered: production, marketing, finance, and human resource development. For each component, the interventions with the highest return of investment should be determined, together with the target level of intervention, the needed budget and resources, and the focal contact person for the intervention.

The benefit of this exercise is that the provincial, municipal and DA plans will be coordinated as part of one integrated provincial-agricultural plan. This is important because there is often disagreement between the DA plan coming from the Manila head office, and provincial, and even municipal, plan. In addition, the resources from these three different entities do not take advantage of the potential synergy when these resources are combined.

The above draft format also requires product planning to go through the business systems approach, which includes the four main components identified above.

This will divert us from the current habit of concentrating only on production, when our real objectives are successful product delivery to attain food security, and increased farmer incomes to alleviate property and promote economic prosperity.

PROVINCIAL PRODUCT PLAN
(Attachment)

PRODUCT:__________ TARGET:__________

LEAD PERSONS:
LGU:________; DA:________; Private Sector:________

FOUR COMPONENTS	TARGET	BUDGET and RESOURCES	CONTACT PERSONS
1. PRODUCTION E.g. Seed Technology, Irrigation, etc.			
2. MARKETING E.g. Bagsakan, Bulk Selling, etc.			
3. FINANCE E.g. Credit, Cost Sharing, etc.			
4. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT E.g. Training on Processing, Cooperative Organizing, etc.			

'Think global, act local'

Very often, things are done successfully in the Metro Manila head office, while the same methods do not seem to deliver in the provinces.

In these challenging times when we have to "think global and act local," we must have even better planning methods in the provinces, for that is where the action is.

A three-day live-in agricultural planning workshop using a bottoms-up business systems approach, with both government and private sector participation, will do much in enabling our agriculture sector to attain globally competitive status, contributing significantly to our nation's welfare.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

Singapore bloc wins . . .

From page B1

price that PSALM fetched for the asset in 2004, when the consortium of YNN Pacific Group Inc. offered a bid of $561.7 million.

In the last bidding round, Malaysian firm Ranhill Berhad, joined the YNN Pacific Consortium Inc., becoming the supposed "white knight" that would have provided the consortium with the much needed financial muscle.

YNN posted the higher bid of $561.7 million for the National Power Corp. asset, edging out sole competitor First Gen Corp.

Ranhill's presence would have allowed the YNN group to settle the 40-percent down payment for the plant.

But YNN's failure to remit the $227-million payment up front—due mainly to Ranhill's refusal to provide the cash because it wanted power supply contracts attached to the asset—voided its asset sale agreement with PSALM.

Ranhill yesterday again tried its luck to acquire the asset, this time partnering with listed firm A. Brown and Co. Inc. to form Masinloc Consolidated.

According to PSALM, the other five bidders were Masinloc Consolidated Power Inc., Masinloc Holdco Inc., Anglo Cayman Energy Development Co. Ltd., International Power Masinloc Holdings Inc., and First Gen Luzon Power Corp.

Masinloc Holdco is wholly owned by Suez-Tractebel SA through subsidiary Belgelectric Finance BV Suez-Tractebel SA.

Anglo Cayman is a unit of Beijing Guohua Electric Power Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of China Shensua Group Co. Ltd.

International Power Masinloc is wholly owned by United Kingdom-based International Power Plc.

First Gen Luzon Power is a unit of listed firm First Gen Corp.

Philamlife investment funds yield rich harvest for investors

Investors in AIG Money Tree, one of Philamlife's best-selling investment-linked insurance products, were delighted with the strong showing of the peso and dollar funds which reached record highs recently.

Those who invested in Philamlife's Peso Equity Fund had their investments grow by 72% in just one year from June 21, 2006 to June 20, 2007. Investors were also pleased at the returns of the other funds: 18.35% for the Peso Fixed Income Fund; 17.49% for the Dollar Bond Fund and 12.40% for the Global Bond Fund.

Consumers looking for investments offering higher potential returns and minimum guaranteed insurance benefits consider AIG Money Tree as the ideal long-term alternative to traditional deposit instruments. The product is simple, flexible and within reach of small investors with a minimum premium of P50,000 (peso product) and US$ 2,000 (dollar product). Apart from the financially savvy investors, Philamlife has allowed office workers, OFWs and even housewives to maximize their savings while enjoying guaranteed protection benefits for their families.

The strong performance of AIG Money Tree can be attributed to Philamlife's sound and responsible investment strategies, which follow the same principles used by its parent company, American International Group, Inc. (AIG).

Investment expertise

For investors who believe that a company's stability and strength are as important as the investment return it produces, Philamlife is the preferred choice because it has the advantages of stability, financial strength and most importantly, investment expertise, being a member of AIG, world leaders in insurance and financial services. If AIG were a country, it would be the 10th largest country in the world with US$979 billion dollars in assets as of 2006. AIG ranked 1st among all insurance firms (property and casualty) in the U.S. based on the Fortune 500 report of April 2007. AIG is present in 130 countries worldwide and invests US$ 200 million every day through its asset management arm, AIG Investments.

Leadership by any measure

This year, Philamlife celebrates 60 years of undisputed market leadership, strengthened by consistently strong financial performance and numerous achievements.

It dominates the industry with P164.9 billion in assets as of 2006, and it accounts for 34% of the market in terms of total assets. The company also leads the field in total premiums and investments, with a 26% and 34% share, respectively, based on the latest data from the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific (2005).

Philamlife is a recipient of many local and international awards, including a Presidential Citation for Nation-Building; Asian Management Awards; LOMA Excellence in Education awards, Marketing Communications Effectiveness awards and a Superbrands Asia award*.

Philamlife offers the most comprehensive range of life and general insurance products that provide protection, savings and investments, education, accident and health coverage and maintains the most extensive network of offices and sales agencies nationwide.

Preferred and trusted

The company enjoys the distinction of being the country's most trusted household brand when it comes to insurance and financial services. In an omnibus survey conducted by AC Nielsen in 2006, 61% of Filipinos who intend to buy life insurance preferred Philamlife over other life insurance companies. Philamlife is also the only financial institution in the Philippines to receive 4 consecutive Platinum consecutive Trusted Brands Awards (2004-2007) from Reader's Digest based on consumer surveys conducted by Nielsen.

Fulfilling promises, fueling growth

In line with its commitment to fulfill the financial needs of its more than a million individual and corporate policyholders, Philamlife has built a strong reputation for keeping its promises to its clients. Last year, it paid P5.3 billion in benefits.

Beyond providing protection, security and the opportunity to maximize investments, Philamlife also fuels the economy as a source of long-term funds. It creates capital to help infrastructure grow and enables businesses to expand. It has funded the construction of highways, power and industrial plants, schools, medical facilities and malls, among other things, and supported the growth of the telecommunications industry in the country.

Doing good while doing well

Philamlife gives back to the community through the Philam Foundation, which aims to uplift the lives of underprivileged Filipinos through different health care, education and livelihood development programs. Philamlife and AIG also support Gawad Kalinga, with a commitment to build 200 homes in 3 villages. Just recently, Philamlife became the largest donor in the English Proficiency Program that trains 6600 teachers and students in selected schools nationwide.

For more information about AIG Money Tree or any of Philamlife's other investment-linked insurance products, please contact our highly-trained variable life licensed agents or call (02) 528-2028.

*Specific years of awards received:

- Presidential Citation for nation-building from President Fidel V. Ramos in 1994
- Platinum SuperBrand and Trusted Brand awards from Reader's Digest Asia (2004-07)
- ISO 9001:2000 certification in 2003
- Life Office Management Association's Excellence in Education Award (1994-2007)
- Asian Management Awards in General Management and Financial Management in 1992 and 1993
- Gold and Silver awards from the Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards in 2005 and Bronze awards in 2007

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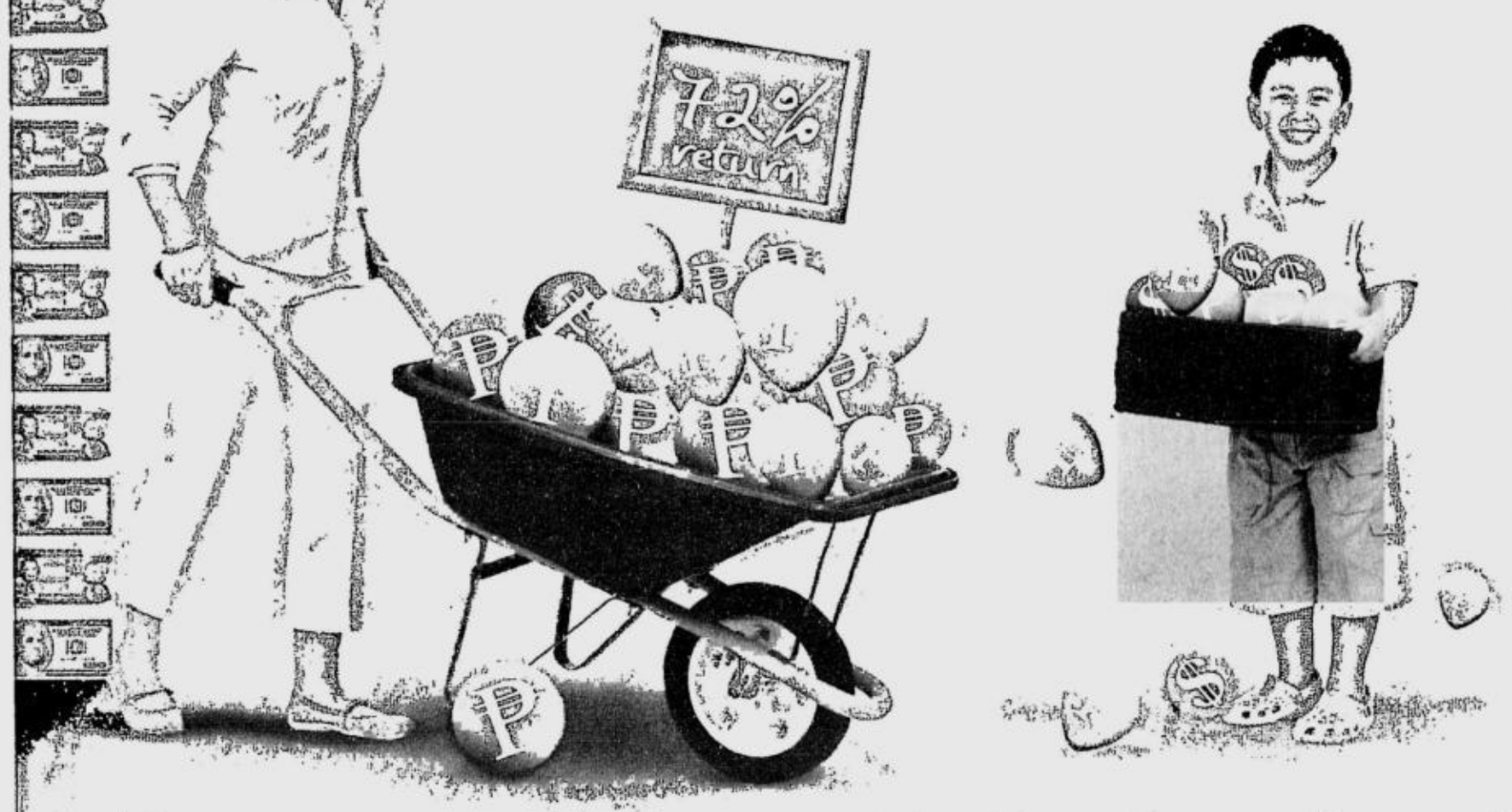

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Philamlife Fixed Income Fund (One-year returns from 06/21/06 – 06/20/07) 18.35%**

Philamlife Equity Fund (One-year returns from 06/21/06 – 06/20/07) 71.56%**

Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund (One-year returns from 06/21/06 – 06/20/07) 17.49%**

Philamlife Global Bond Fund (One-year returns from 06/21/06 – 06/20/07) 12.40%**

* One-year return of Philamlife Equity Fund from June 21, 2006 to June 20, 2007

**Risk warning: past performance is not indicative of future results. Our investment management services relate to a variety of investments, each of which fluctuates in value. The value of portfolios we manage may fall as well as rise, and the investor may not get back the full amount originally invested. The investment risks vary between different types of instruments. In case of higher volatility portfolio, the loss on realization or cancellation may be high. In making an investment decision, prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the merits and risks involved.

Note: Funds returned are calculated NAVPU to NAVPU in Php (for the Equity and Fixed Income Funds) and in US$ (for the Dollar and Global Bond Funds) and do not reflect all policy charges and fees. Returns apply only to a portion of the premiums invested.

*** Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines Report 2006 / Fortune 500 Report (April 2007) / Fortune World's Most Admired Companies Report (March 2007)

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Ayala Land launches P5-B development in Manila

Firm's first integrated project in City of Manila

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA LAND INC. YESTERDAY launched a P5-billion mixed-use property development project in the City of Manila.

The project will be put up on the sprawling 11-hectare former San Lazaro racetrack of Manila Jockey Club.

Dubbed Celadon Manila, the project is ALI's first in-city integrated development—a fusion of residential, commercial and office spaces for business process outsourcing—with gross floor area of more than 150,000 square meters.

In a press briefing yesterday, company officials said the project would bring together several Ayala Land brands—Ayala Corporate Business Group for the commercial development, Ayala Malls for the retail and Community Innovations for the residential component.

The retail and commercial development will be on Felix Huertas Street and will have about 3,000 square meters of shops, dining and leisure establishments.

Its BPO component, which will occupy about one hectare of the property, will also be ALI's first office development in Manila and is touted to be the largest BPO site in the city, said Iris Josef, project head at Community Innovations.

ALI is in talks with major BPO players—Convergys and PeopleSupport—to locate to the site.

The BPO project is seen to generate about 13,000 jobs once fully built.

The residential component, which accounts for 5 hectares of Celadon Manila, will consist of two developments—townhouse community Celadon Residences and condominium project Celadon Park.

Celadon Residences is a 4.2-hectare master planned residential townhouse community that will offer 202 units. Unit sizes will range from 168 square meters to 204 square meters. They will be sold for about P9.5 million to P12.5 million.

Celadon Residences will also have more than 22,000 square meters of greens and open spaces.

Celadon Park will offer 600 condominium units with floor areas ranging from 49 square meters to 295 square meters and priced between P3.8 million to P8.6 million.

"This integrated development will create land value that will increase over time," ALI senior vice president Rex Mendoza.

He said it was a homecoming for the Ayala group, which started as Ayala y Compania in Escolta.

Villar property firm closes slightly up

SHARES IN VISTA LAND & Lifescapes Inc., the property holding firm of the Villar group, closed slightly higher than the offer price at P6.90 despite a weak showing in early trade.

Vista Land, which was offered for P6.85 per share, yesterday opened at P6.80 as, some quarters said, investors steered clear of this secondary offer.

The closing price of P6.90 was 2.8 percent down from the company's previously traded price of P7.10.

Vista Land was listed yesterday by introduction, which did not require an initial public offering.

A local broker said investors found Vista Land expensive as it traded at 90 times the estimated 2007 recurring net earnings which was much higher than the industry's 20 times 2007 earnings.

Also, brokers said local investors were not comfortable about the "political connections" of the stock.

The company offered 3.1 billion shares composed of 2.12 billion primary shares and 985.9 million secondary shares.

The selling shareholders were Polar Property Holdings Corp., Althorp Holdings Inc., Golden Haven Memorial Park Inc., Cambridge Group Inc., Calveston Investments Ltd. and Cameron Global Ltd. Of the total offering, 70 percent was allocated to foreigners while the rest would be sold to local investors.

Vista Land raised $546 million or P24.6 billion from the offering. The foreign market snapped up shares of Vista Land during its offer period, generating $2 billion in foreign orders, said UBS AG managing director Lauro Baja III, the company's underwriter.

The local market, however, was lukewarm. BDO Capital president Eduardo Francisco said this had nothing to do with the company. BDO Capital is the company's local underwriter.

"It's just the timing. When we went out to the market, Aboitiz Power was just listed and GMA Network was starting," Francisco said.

Vista Land president Benjamarie Serrano said about P13 billion of the proceeds from the primary offer would be used for new projects and to pay debts. About P5.2 billion of its debts would be settled.

Vista Land is spending P18 billion to fund land development and acquisitions and housing development this year and next.

Of the total capital spending, Vista Land will build five condominiums over the next three years for its three brands Camella Homes (affordable segment), Crown Asia (middle-class) and Brittany (high-end or luxury homes). *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

The Land Bank of the Philippines congratulates the Most Active Countryside Partners under the Countryside Loan Fund (CLF) Programs

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 26, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.3	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	6,000
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	68	68	66.5	67	1,278,300
73.5	51	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68	69.5	68	69	1,121,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	870	875	870	870	5,860
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
0.63	0.37	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.54	2,460,000
75.5	35.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	67	67	66	67	3,916,400
68	39	Philippine Savings Bank	64	64.5	63	63	9,300
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	34.5	34.5	33.5	33.5	3,799,200
90	46.5	Security Bank Corp.	83.5	84	83	83	333,200
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	63	62	62	185,600
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	90,000
16.25	1.78	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.25	13.25	364,800
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,725.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,680.00	1,695.00	1,680.00	1,695.00	110
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.25	2,903,000
1,005.00	212	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	820	845	800	845	14,690
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,170.00	2,180.00	2,170.00	2,180.00	310
1.94	1.28	iVantage Corp	1.76	1.82	1.76	1.82	392,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	5.5	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	28,376,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.45	0.45	670,000
70	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	70	67	69.5	1,598,000
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86.5	87.5	85.5	86.5	580,600
15	7.7	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.75	2,972,400
116	15	Manila Electric Co. "A"	100	104	100	102	171,500
118	24	Manila Electric Co. "B"	103	107	103	105	1,510,170
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	23,533,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.1	6.4	13,277,000
14.75	11.25	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	243,900
1.9	0.92	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.44	1.5	1,460,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	487,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	8,000
61	31.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52.5	51	51.5	718,600
1.96	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.88	1.92	1.88	1.88	1,824,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	295,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	74	74	73	74	159,500
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	77	77.5	75.5	76	584,800
0.66	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.6	0.66	0.59	0.62	27,730,000
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	3.9	3.9	17,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	238,500
0.55	0.2	Vitarich Corp	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.55	EEI Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	5,659,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	18	18	18	18	500
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7,280,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	151,000
2	0.25	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.6	6,001,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,200,000
1.34	0.8	Interphil Laboratories Inc."A"	1	1	1	1	150,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc."B"	1	1	1	1	120,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	205,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.0675	Picop Resources Inc	0.57	0.58	0.54	0.55	27,760,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.8	A. Soriano Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	90,000
0.17	0.024	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	8,420,000
1.28	0.2	APC Group Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1	19,900,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc."A"	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	50,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc."B"	2.42	2.7	2.42	2.7	1,002,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc."A"	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	112,800,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	8,961,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	452,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	30,236,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.4	2.42	3,706,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	20,000
590	333.33	Ayala Corp.	560	570	560	560	439,110
14.5	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	27,600
6.9	0.8	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.7	1,794,000
5.8	1.06	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	2,700,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.5	306,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.92	1.92	1.86	1.86	166,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,560,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	340,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11	11.25	1,711,700
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.4	3.4	391,000
2.65	1.42	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc."B"	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	110,000
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	8	8.9	7.8	8.8	22,568,000
8.2	1.3	PAL Holdings Inc.	7.6	8.1	7.6	7.8	977,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	4,250,000
452.5	202.36	SM Investments Corp.	427.5	435	427.5	430	213,710
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	8,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.5	9,990,000
1.6	0.8	South China Resources Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.3	1.4	201,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.59	0.62	0.55	0.58	7,050,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.81	0.89	0.81	0.83	1,590,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	2.32	2.32	1.96	1.96	21,376,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.81	0.9	0.81	0.84	5,150,000
19.25	10.42	Ayala Land Inc.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	51,790,200
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.5	4,765,000
4.7	2.1	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.3	4.3	229,000
3.83	1.33	City and Land Developers Inc.	3	3	3	3	9,000
0.86	0.27	Crown Equities Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	710,000
0.83	0.22	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.6	0.61	7,270,000
0.99	0.45	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.82	23,050,000
0.47	0.038	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.34	40,550,000
1.48	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.32	1.36	86,845,000
2.44	1.06	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.08	15,416,000
0.49	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc."A"	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.39	1,050,000
0.5	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc."B"	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.39	70,000
2.9	0.74	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	30,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	950,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	2,450,000
4.4	1.32	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	4.05	3.95	4.05	25,396,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	130,000
0.7	0.11	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.47	0.49	1,210,000
0.87	0.26	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	35,880,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.1	6.1	5.8	6	1,384,000
23	10.75	Robinson Land Corp.	19.5	19.5	19	19.25	1,524,400
5.9	1.28	SM Development Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	492,000
13.5	6.08	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	5,060,100
1.34	0.55	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	1,740,000
0.49	0.0675	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.36	19,740,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.9	272,377,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36	37	36	37	47,400
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	130,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	7,354,000
1,445.00	960	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,365.00	1,370.00	1,360.00	1,365.00	71,730
2,820.00	1,890.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,645.00	2,665.00	2,645.00	2,660.00	90,720
7.9	3.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.3	11,022,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	350,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	20,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	11	11.5	10.5	10.75	6,804,100
0.065	0.028	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.044	19,900,000
29.5	6	Imperial Resources Inc."A"	22	22	22	22	1,800
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	13,000
0.32	0.04	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.22	0.225	46,030,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0575	0.06	0.055	0.0575	275,200,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.44	2.48	2.4	2.42	1,686,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
6.8	2.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	61,000
34.5	14	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	32.5	33.5	32.5	33	290,200
2.16	0.87	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	810,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.28	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.55	3.85	3.55	3.8	7,444,000
0.98	0.195	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.69	0.71	0.69	0.71	4,370,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.91	570,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	209,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc	22	22	22	22	1,000
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	591,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	95,500
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	21.75	21.75	21.25	21.5	61,300
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	185,000,000
7.6	3.65	Apex Mining Co. Inc."A"	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	18,000
7.7	3.65	Apex Mining Co. Inc."B"	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,000
21.25	7.5	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	6,249,200
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	20,000
3.1	0.1025	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.85	84,117,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,210,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,390,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	31,000,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	34,900,000
30	0.88	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	22	23.5	21.25	22.25	944,700
0.024	0.009	Omico Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.018	0.02	2,642,500,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	5,780,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	36	36	36	36	39,000
1.36	0.38	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,128,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	3,187,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.49	8,740,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	362,900,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.027	0.025	0.927	129,800,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	64,700
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	107,100,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	972.25 UP	1.91	16,885,770	631,858,830.00
Industrial	5,038.87 UP	41.19	155,036,470	1,017,773,830.00
Holding Firms	2,184.12 DOWN	13.09	710,732,620	1,163,800,940.00
Property	1,789.98 UP	3.22	2,259,727,545	14,412,892,578.25
Service	1,620.96 UP	9.78	383,222,750	587,160,115.00
Mining & Oil	6,868.48 UP	125.01	3,607,088,600	476,256,910.00
All Shares Index	2,372.42 UP	3.9		
PSEi	3,659.68 UP	14.17		
		GRAND TOTALS	7,132,693,755	18,289,743,203.25

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK PSE

Software firms worried over foreign hiring practices

Group proposes imposition of additional requirements

THE PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE INdustry Association (PSIA), an organization of software companies in the country, has expressed alarm over the hiring practices of some foreign recruitment companies, particularly those from Singapore.

In a statement, PSIA said its members have noticed a growing number of Singaporean agencies that send representatives to Manila to recruit software engineers in the past two years.

"Their representatives usually fly in and stay for the weekend, during which period they aggressively sign up dozens of senior software engineers, most of whom are employed," said Fermin Taruc, president of PSIA and managing director of Gurango Software Corp.

Once hired, Taruc said these engineers were immediately offered flight bookings. "They are usually given less than a week's notice, which leaves them with no opportunity for proper resignation and transition. Much as they would like to ensure a smooth transition, these engineers are often compelled to breach their existing contracts for these 'take-it-or-leave-it' opportunities," said Taruc.

In the statement, the group said this hiring practice had been detrimental to the local software industry. "With their software engineers suddenly gone, local software companies end up struggling with limited time, resources, and project information to deliver their clients' requirements. It said this often resulted in unsatisfied clients, even lawsuits against software companies that failed to deliver mission-critical projects in accordance with the service level agreement.

"The PSIA understands that overseas employment is a strong driver of the economy. We also know fully well how promising these foreign job offers can be to our local software engineers. In fact, we encourage them to continuously seek professional growth, whether locally or internationally," Taruc added. "However, it is the PSIA's position that these recruitment agencies should be responsible enough to ensure that the hiring process is fair to all affected parties. For one thing, it is clearly hurting the business of local software companies. On a bigger scale, it is putting the Philippines in a bad light from the clients' perspective. The global software industry recognizes the Philippines as a source of world-class talent. But if this practice goes on, we might ultimately earn a reputation for not meeting clients' expectations."

To address this, the PSIA has requested the Singapore government to impose additional requirements on those who are securing work visas. The requirements should include a copy of their resignation letter, duly received, dated and signed by the company representative, and a clearance from the company, stating that the visa applicant has no pending contractual or legal obligation with the company.

"The world looks to Singapore as a role model in terms of law and order, discipline, and progressive government policies. This is why the PSIA believes that, in the spirit of fair trade, the Singapore government can make improvements in regulating the hiring and recruitment process in the Philippines," Taruc concluded.

Meralco Q2 profit soars 62%

By Abigail L. Ho

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. POSTed a 62.3-percent increase in net income in the second quarter to P1.81 billion from year-ago's P1.12 billion.

In a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Meralco said the strong second-quarter performance boosted its year-to-date earnings to P2.34 billion, up from P367 million in profit last year.

Last year's second quarter net income, however, was inclusive of P1.61 billion in provisions for probable losses stemming from a pending petition in the Supreme Court regarding the unbundling of the company's rates.

Meralco started making provisions for probable losses two years ago, in preparation for a possible negative decision by the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeals in 2004 rendered void the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of Meralco's rates unbundling application, which also effectively nullified a rate increase of 17 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Of this approved 17-centavo rate hike, 8.35 centavos per kWh went to National Transmission Corp. as payment for transmission charges and 8.65 centavos per kWh went to Meralco for distribution charges.

Second-quarter revenue rose 23.6 percent to P59.19 billion on the back of strong electricity sales last summer. For the first half, revenue rose 20 percent to P107.39 billion from last year's P89.51 billion.

Despite the shorter billing period in the second quarter, energy sales rose 4.61 percent to 6,800 gigawatt-hours (GWh), a reversal of the 0.43-percent sales contraction last year.

Meralco attributed the sales increase to the lowering of rates due to the suspension of the ERC's automatic generation rate adjustment mechanism starting September last year. The suspension was lifted on June 28.

As with the past several quarters, the commercial segment registered the highest growth in the second quarter with 5.5 percent to 2,543 GWh or 37.4 percent of total energy sales.

In the first half, growth was placed at 5.8 percent, up from last year's 3.9 percent.

Driving sales growth in the commercial segment was the real-estate sub-segment, which grew 12.2 percent due mainly to the full operation of new buildings energized in the second half of 2006.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 24, 2007 / Last Week July 17, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.59689 / 1.60445
Managed Fund - Peso	1.90892 / 1.91888
Growth Fund - Peso	1.99038 / 1.99898
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3740 / 1.3765

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE
Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	July 23, 2007	July 16, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.273585	1.273268
Balanced Fund	1.501838	1.503224
Equity Fund	1.871978	1.875836

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

Petron registers Q2 profit of P1.75B

PETRON CORP. POSTED A 4-PERCENT RISE in net income to P1.75 billion in the second quarter from P1.68 billion in the same period last year.

For the first half, its profit hit P2.7 billion, slightly higher than last year's P2.69 billion.

Petron president Khalid Al-Faddagh attributed the slow profit growth to low refining margins in the first quarter, which was offset only in the second quarter when sales started picking up and refining margins.

Total revenue was placed at P98.78 billion in the first semester, lower than last year's P106.97 billion.

First-half sales volume was also slightly lower at 25.85 million barrels, compared with last year's 26.59 million barrels. The second quarter volume, however, was higher—at 14.10 million barrels—than last year's 13.04 million barrels.

"Despite difficult market conditions, we continued to focus on programs aimed at ensuring our market leadership and sustaining our growth momentum," Al-Faddagh said.

The company was able to help offset slow demand, especially in the domestic market, by reducing its operating expenses by 8 percent to P2.54 million in the first semester.

To help it cope with changing market conditions and maintain market leadership, Al-Faddagh said Petron would be undergoing the second phase of its petro fluidized catalytic cracker (PetroFCC) project some time in the future.

The company is currently on the last leg of the construction of its first PetroFCC unit, which should go on stream by the first quarter of 2008.

The PetroFCC will produce 140,000 metric tons of petrochemical propylene and will allow Petron to convert more black products—such as industrial fuel oil into higher-value white products such as liquefied petroleum gas, gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

Abigail Ho

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Top Mount White Stainless 22 cu.ft.	P 79,950.	P54,950.
Top Mount White 20 cu.ft.	P 69,950.	P41,000.
Side by Side Stainless 25 cu.ft.	P 149,950.	P99,950.
Side by Side White 25 cu.ft.	P 119,950.	P 89,950.

For more information contact:
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M. Greenfield KM 14, Merville Access Road, Merville, Paranaque City
Telephone Nos.: (02) 822-1642
Per DTI-NCR Permit # A2-226 Series of 2007

GMA completes offering

TELEVISION GIANT GMA NETWORK INC. and newly formed GMA Holdings Inc. have raised some P7.8 billion from a recent offering of new shares and deposit receipts.

The shares of GMA Network, which will be listed on July 30, were offered to the public from July 17 to 24.

The common shares and Philippine Deposit Receipts were priced at P6.50 per share.

According to the underwriters, the international offer was more than 29 times oversubscribed while the Philippine Stock Exchange reported 7.3 times oversubscription for its 20 percent allocation. About 17,300 local investors subscribed under the Small Investors Program.

Some 70 percent of the total offering was allocated to international investors, 20 percent to PSE brokers and 10 percent to local small investors.

A portion of the net proceeds of the offering will be used by GMA to finance its capital development projects for 2007 and 2008, including the completion of two new television studios as well as the rollout of the regional signal strengthening and upgrading project that will improve GMA's reach and broadcasting capability in the provinces.

In a statement, GMA Network said it had completed its offering of 91.346 million primary shares while GMA Holdings also sold 822.11 million of PDRs. These were offered to both domestic and international investors.

Trading of the GMA Network Inc. common shares under the symbol "GMA7" and the GMA Holdings PDRs under the symbol "GMAP" will start on July 30, the company's listing date.

GMA Holdings Inc. and the selling shareholders have granted Deutsche Bank AG, Hong Kong branch an option to purchase additional 123.3 million PDRs and 13.7 million common shares to cover over-allotments within 30 days from listing date.

Deutsche Bank AG Hong Kong Branch acted as sole global coordinator, bookrunner and joint lead manager, while ATR KimEng Capital Partners is the joint lead manager, domestic lead underwriter and issue manager for the offering.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

CURRENCIES

July 26, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.723537	1.000000	44.7880
Japan	Yen	0.006021	0.008321	0.3727
United Kingdom	Pound	1.492150	2.062300	92.3663
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.092501	0.127846	5.7260
Switzerland	Franc	0.601394	0.831186	37.2272
Canada	Dollar	0.698394	0.965251	43.2317
Singapore	Dollar	0.480564	0.664187	29.7476
Australia	Dollar	0.639562	0.883939	39.5899
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.919399	2.652801	118.8137
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.192932	0.266652	11.9428
Brunei	Dollar	0.478973	0.661989	29.6492
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000111	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.024427	0.033761	1.5121
UAE	Dirham	0.197015	0.272294	12.1955
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.382100	61.9015
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.001094	0.0490
China	Yuan**	0.095674	0.132231	5.9224
Argentina	Peso	0.230867	0.319081	14.2910
Brazil	Real	0.391524	0.541126	24.2360
Denmark	Kroner	0.134427	0.185791	8.3212
India	Rupee	0.018021	0.024907	1.1155
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212805	0.294118	13.1730
Mexico	New Peso	0.066779	0.092295	4.1337
New Zealand	Dollar	0.585623	0.809389	36.2509
Norway	Kroner	0.125907	0.174016	7.7938
Pakistan	Rupee	0.011979	0.016556	0.7415
South Africa	Rand	0.106031	0.146546	6.5635
Sweden	Kroner	0.108646	0.150159	6.7253
Syria	Pound	0.014000	0.019350	0.8666
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022086	0.030525	1.3672
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000337	0.000466	0.0209

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 25, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 25, 2007

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JOEL M. PAULO

WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS HEREIN ABOVE IS WANTED FOR ESTAFA THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS AND ESTAFA THRU MISAPPROPRIATION/ CONVERSION COMMITTED AGAINST DIANA STALDER BY DERMALINE DIRECT SALES PURSUANT TO WARRANT OF ARREST ISSUED BY THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANDALUYONG CITY. BRANCH 208 IN CRIMINAL CASES NOS. MC07-11028.

ANY TRANSACTION WITH THE ABOVE-NAMED SHALL NOT BE HONORED BY DIANA STALDER BY DERMALINE DIRECT SALES.

(PDI - July 27, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IRENE MERILO

WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS HEREIN ABOVE IS WANTED FOR ESTAFA THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS AND ESTAFA THRU MISAPPROPRIATION/CONVERSION COMMITTED AGAINST DIANA STALDER BY DERMALINE DIRECT SALES PURSUANT TO WARRANT OF ARREST ISSUED BY THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANDALUYONG CITY. BRANCH 208 IN CRIMINAL CASES NOS. MC07-11032.

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(PDI - July 27, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JANICE SALVEJOS

WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS HEREIN ABOVE IS WANTED FOR ESTAFA THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS AND ESTAFA THRU MISAPPROPRIATION/CONVERSION COMMITTED AGAINST DIANA STALDER BY DERMALINE DIRECT SALES PURSUANT TO WARRANT. OF ARREST ISSUED BY THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANDALUYONG CITY, BRANCH 208 IN CRIMINAL CASES NOS. MC07-11029.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **EBARA BENGUET, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Export Producer of Bearing Housing and Water-cooled Jacket Assemblies for Industrial Application** on a **Pioneer** Status with capacity of **245 MTPY (119,000 Man-hours)** with project/plant sites located at **EBI Plant, Canlubang Industrial Estate, Cabuyao, Laguna.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–July 27, 2007)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PACIFICA AGRO INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Producer of Fish Meal and Fish Oil** with an annual capacity of 16,373 MT and 1,418 MT, respectively, on a Non Pioneer Status with project sites located at **Barangay Tambler, General Santos City and Talisayan, Zamboanga City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–July 27, 2007)

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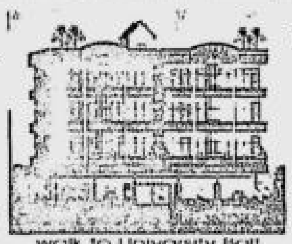

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OBITUARIES

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of

RURAL BANK OF ARITAO (N.V.), INC.

announces the passing away of one of its STOCKHOLDERS

ENGR. BENJAMIN G. SAYO

who joined our Creator on July 25, 2007 at the age of 83.

His beloved wife **Nita Igno**, **Rosario Morando** (†), children **Ody** and **Ellen**, grandchildren, **Mark** and **Pam**; **Jeremy**; great grandchildren, **Jacob** and **Ava**; brothers and sisters, **Liwayway Leon** (†), **Luz Salumbides** (†), **Isagani** (†), **Bella Balza**, **Sofronio** (†) and **Raymundo** (†); other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state Chapel P1, Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City. Masses are scheduled every evening at 8:30 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held on Sunday, July 29, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Cremation will follow.

In Loving Memory

of the First Death Anniversary
of

Dr. Bienvenido P. Mendoza

of Bacolor, Pampanga

UST College of Medicine 1944
July 27, 2006

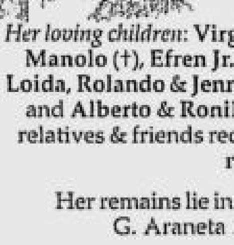
His loving wife, **Gloria Ayson**; children **Evelyn** and **Jun Virata**, **Ernie** and **Elsa Asuncion**, **Emilia** (†), **Editha** and **Martin Jose**; grandchildren **Nina**, **Alexa**, **Chino Eunice**, **Joseph** & **Hannah** request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

PAREB-RBR at the RESCOP 2007 Oath taking of Realty Service Practitioner's

PAST PRESIDENT (2002) of PAREB-Rizal Board of Realtors, Inc. Ma. Lourdes "Maloy" T. Garcia, and this years top-notcher of the Real Estate Consultant's Licensure Examination led the PAREB-RBR delegation to the 23rd RESCOP oath taking ceremonies for newly passed Real Estate Brokers, Appraisers and Consultants at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) along Roxas Blvd. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue.

Realty Service Council of the Philippines (RESCOP) is the advisory body to the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) on matters involving real estate, housing and urban development. The said affair was well attended by different Real Estate Associations, Developers, Banks, other affiliated professionals as well as officials headed by DTI Assistant Secretary Ma. Theresa L. Pelayo . and DTI-BTRCP Director, Atty. Victor Mario A. Dimagiba.

We would like to congratulate PAREB-RBR members who excelled in the recent licensure examination: REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT Ma. Lourdes T. Garcia - 1st Place (92%) ; REAL ESTATE APPRAISER Nancy T. Golpeo - 8th Place (83.5%) ;REAL ESTATE BROKER Tani B. Sabas - 10th Place (87.5%).



Pura Reyes Pulido

Born on November 20, 1922, peacefully joined her Creator on July 22, 2007 at the age of 84.

Her loving children: **Virginia & Albert, Edgardo & Consolacion, Manolo (†), Efren Jr. & Theresa, Ana & Eduardo, Victor & Loida, Rolando & Jennifer, Jesus & Rosan, Ramon & Zenaida, and Alberto & Ronilda**; *grandchildren and great-grandchild*, relatives & friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 5, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave, Q.C., Tel. No. 749-3806.

Interment will be on July 28, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Q.C. after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

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2 Corinthians 5:8

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF TRUE COST GENERATION RATE WITH PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2006-004 RC

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION – SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP (NPC-SPUG),
Applicant.
x - x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on January 30, 2006, the National Power Corporation-Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) filed with the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9136, an application for the approval of the True Cost Generation Rate (TCGR), with prayer for provisional authority.

In the said application, NPC-SPUG alleged, among others, the following:

1. Pursuant to Section 70 of R.A. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Act (EPIRA) of 2001, it is responsible for providing power generation and associated power delivery systems in areas that are not connected to the transmission system;
2. By virtue of the above mandate, it is filling the instant application for the electricity generation rates (exclusive of electricity transmission related expenses in Palawan and Mindoro) for missionary electrification areas;
3. On 06 July 2005, the Commission, through Resolution No. 11, Series of 2005, approved the Guidelines for the Setting and Approval of Electricity Generation Rates and Subsidies for Missionary Electrification Areas (Guidelines);
4. Article III of the Guidelines provides for the rules for setting and adjusting its SPUG True Cost Generation Rates (TCGR). It also provides that within one hundred eighty (180) days from the issuance of the Guidelines, it shall file an application with the Commission for the setting and approval of its TCGR;
5. The TCGR, as per Section 2(s) of Article I of the Guidelines, refers "to the cost, expressed in Peso per Kilowatt-hour, determined through a Return on Rate Base (RORB) methodology that includes all its allowable expenses incurred from providing electric generation services";
6. RORB methodology is a rate setting scheme based on historical costs (CY 2004 costs, as applied in this Application) that considers operational, as well as, financial factors.
7. Under the existing generation charge, it is only allowed to recover, at least on a quarterly basis, the deferred incremental costs of fuel/ purchased power and foreign exchange differential resulting from the fluctuations of fuel/purchased power prices and currency exchange rates, through the Generation Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM), and the Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (ICERA) respectively. This leaves behind the fixed and variable cost components of the generation charges at their original base, which is at CY 2000 level;
8. Section 1(a), Article III of the Guidelines states that the TCGR will represents its Revenue Requirement in accordance with the RORB methodology used to determine NPC's generation charges;
9. The key components of the Revenue Requirements used in this application are primarily based on the Guidelines (ERC Resolution No. 11, Series of 2005) and the ERC-prescribed Uniform Filing Requirements (UFR) under ERC No. 2001-901.
   a. *Rate Base Items being proposed for approval in this Application consists of the following:*
      a.1. **Electric Plant in Service (EPS)** includes the original cost of the electric plants with an expected life of more than one (1) year from the date of installation, owned and used by NPC-SPUG in its utility electric operations.
      a.2. **General Plant and Equipment (GPE)** refers to the cost of tangible assets other than those used directly for utility electric operations, such as; land and land rights; structures and improvements; transportation equipment; tools, shop and garage equipment; communications equipment; and, other tangible properties.
      a.3. **Construction Work-In-Progress** refers to the total of balances of work orders not yet ready for service at the close of CY 2004.
      a.4. **Materials, Supplies and Equipment Inventory** includes the cost of materials, supplies and equipment received by the property custodian for use in the operation and maintenance of production plants, substations and transmission lines.
      a.5. **Working Capital** is equivalent to two (2) months of the total annual operating expenses for CY 2004 and excludes non-cash items.
   b. Desired Rate of Return on Rate Base of eight percent (8%) proposed in this application is based on the minimum required return stipulated in the loan covenants of NPC with foreign creditors, such as, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
   c. Operating Expenses, which it seeks for consideration and approval by the Commission for calculating the Revenue Requirement in this application are as follows:
      c.1. **Depreciation/Depletion** refers to the amount of deterioration of plants, equipment and similar assets in operation in CY 2004. Excluded in this application are those non-operational plants for the entire duration of CY 2004, decommissioned plants and/or plants not used in utility operations.
      c.2. **Other Operating Expenses** identified herein, specifically refer to the cost and expense items proposed for recovery in this Application.
      c.3. **Fuel Costs** are supported with details of fuel purchases and deliveries for CY 2004 in all SPUG land-based power plants and power barges for diesel fuel, Bunker C fuel and any mixture, thereof.
      c.4. **Personal Services** or payroll includes CY 2004 salaries/ wages and other related expenses for employees at NPC-SPUG facilities, such as, land-based power plants and power barges, field offices at the small islands and head office.
      c.5. **Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses** include operations, admin and general expenses, plant operations expenses, plant maintenance expenses and other general ledgers, such as, insurance, bad debt expenses and others.
      c.6. **HO Allocation** in standard accounting system would mean Overhead. This refers to expenses incurred by NPC units for centralized services rendered in finance, human resources, procurement, public affairs and media relations, health, security and others.
      c.7. **Interest Expense** refers to payments of interests on NPC loans and other obligations allocated to NPC-SPUG. NPC-SPUG has no financial obligation as a separate entity from NPC.
      c.8. **Other Expenses** included in this Application are: Finance and Other Bank Charges; Depreciation-Other Utility Plant and Non-Utility Property; Gain or Loss on Foreign Exchange Fluctuation; Other Taxes, Miscellaneous Expenses, among others.
      c.9. **Purchased Power Cost** incurred for power supply agreements with Island Power Corporation in Occidental Mindoro and Delta P in Mainland Palawan, which should be part of the computation of Revenue Requirement, are not included in this Application pending approval of the contracts by the ERC.
10. Pursuant to the ERC-approved and prescribed UFR under ERC Case No. 2001-901, the Rate Base includes, among other things, Net Electric Plant-in-Service. Values of NPC-SPUG assets are based on fiscal year ending CY 2002. Appraisal of its assets was last conducted in 1996 by the independent appraiser, Resource Management International, Inc. (RMI). Since there was no appraisal conducted from 1996 to 2002, it revalued the assets at the end of CY 2002 using the average US Dollar to Philippine Peso exchange rates for the period;
11. It does not provide Ancillary Services up to the present. Hence, no actual revenue shall be deducted from the gross Revenue Requirement obtained in adding up the above components;
12. It proposes to adopt a TCGR for each of the seventeen (17) areas of NPC-SPUG based on the rate grouping specified in the National Power Board Resolution No. 2004-66 dated July 27, 2004 and No. 2004-98 dated November 9, 2004;
13. The Energy Sales represent actual and regular sales for CY 2004 of NPC-SPUG in the 17 areas as indicated in the power bills net of discounts, if any. The value is used as a divisor of Revenue Requirement to obtain the TCGR;
14. It also proposes to adopt and apply the TCGR for the 17 areas of NPC-SPUG as shown below:

AREA		TCGR (Php/kWh)	AREA		TCGR (Php/kWh)
	Total SPUG	11.7162	9.	Bantayan	17.0408
1	Occidental Mindoro	7.2392	10	Camotes	13.8061
2	Oriental Mindoro	11.7160	11	Siquijor	16.8925
3	Marinduque	9.3434	12	Tawi-Tawi	19.2343
4	Mainland Palawan	7.0037	13	Basilan	11.7087
5.	Catanduanes	12.1221	14	Sulu	10.1718
6.	Masbate	10.7878	15	Other Luzon	23.1480
7.	Tablas	14.5314	16	Other Visayas	36.3004
8.	Romblon	16.5637	17	Other Mindanao	22.4826

15. The proposed NPC-SPUG TCGR, as stated in Section 1(a), Article III of the Guidelines, "shall be used to determine the appropriate level of Missionary Electrification (ME) Subsidy to be allowed for NPC-SPUG for the applicable period"; and
16. It prayed that the proposed NPC-SPUG TCGR be approved by the Commission.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on the following schedules:

Date and Time	Venue	Particulars
August 21, 2007 – Two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City	Jurisdictional, Pre-trial and Evidentiary hearing
September 17, 2007 – Nine o' clock in the morning (9:00 A.M.)	ERC Cebu Field Office, Machay Building, Gorordo Avenue, Lahug, Cebu City	Evidentiary Hearing
September 21, 2007 – Nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 A.M.)	Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City	Evidentiary Hearing

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the application or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the applicant concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicant, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, the Honorable Commissioners **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA** and **JOSE C. REYES**, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 4th day of July 2007 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN
Executive Director

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF A SOCIALLY-ACCEPTABLE GENERATION RATE (SAGR) FOR SIXTY (60) REMAINING NPC-SPUG AREAS

ERC CASE NO. 2006-020 RC

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION-
SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP (NPC-SPUG),
Applicant.
x - x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on June 2, 2006, the National Power Corporation-Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) filed with the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9136, an application for the approval of the Socially Acceptable Generation Rate (SAGR) for the remaining sixty (60) NPC-SPUG areas.

In the said application, NPC-SPUG alleged, among others, the following:

1. On January 26, 2004, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued *Department Circular No. 2004-01-001 Prescribing the Rules and Procedures for Private Sector Participation (PSP) in Existing NPC-SPUG Areas Pursuant to Rule 13 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA);*
2. In compliance with the said DOE Circular, it filed with the Commission the following applications on 6 December 2004:
   a) Application for the Approval of a Socially Acceptable Generation Rate (SAGR) and Corresponding Missionary Electrification Subsidy (ME Subsidy) for First Wave NPC-SPUG Areas (ERC Case No. 2004-449); and
   b) Application for the Approval of the Proposed Guidelines for the Setting of Electric Generation Rates and Subsidies for Missionary Electrification Areas (ERC Case No. 2004-450).
3. The aforesaid application (ERC Case No. 2004-449) covers the first fourteen (14) existing NPC-SPUG areas that will be opened to PSP (first wave areas) per DOE Circular 2004-01-001;
4. The latter application (ERC Case No. 2004-450) covers all existing NPC-SPUG areas – both PSP areas and those whose generation requirements will continue to be served by NPC-SPUG;
5. It shall seek the approval of the Commission to set the SAGR for existing areas that will remain with NPC-SPUG;
6. In consideration of the aforesaid SAGR application (ERC Case No. 2004-449), the Commission, in its Order of January 5 and 19, 2005 on its petitions for Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM, ERC Case No. 2004-421) and Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (ICERA, ERC Case No. 2004-420), respectively, approved only the Deferred Accounting Adjustment (DAA) component. The DAA would only allow it to recover fuel- and foreign exchange- related cost increases in the past but not to establish new generation rates which is the subject of the SAGR application;
7. To supplement its December 6, 2004 filings (ERC Case Nos. 2004-449 and 450) and therefore, be able to apply the SAGR concept in all existing NPC-SPUG areas, it is now submitting before the Commission its proposed SAGRs for the sixty (60) remaining NPC-SPUG areas or those areas not included in the fourteen (14) first wave areas for PSP;
8. The petition for the Universal Charge for Missionary Electrification (UC-ME) requirements of the sixty (60) remaining NPC-SPUG areas for 2005 will be filed by March 15, 2005. Said UC-ME requirements shall be based on DOE's 2005-2009 Missionary Electrification Development Plan (MEDP);
9. As described in its SAGR Application for the 14 PSP Areas (ERC Case No. 2004-449), the determination of the SAGR involves the following steps:
   a) First, the levels of economic development of the areas were assessed based on household (HH) connection – the higher the percentage of HH connection, the more developed. Level 1 areas are the least developed, Level 4 areas are the most developed. Areas in the same level of development are expected to afford similar generation rates.

      As stated in its SAGR Application for the 14 PSP areas (ERC Case No. 2004-449), HH connection was used as a proxy for economic parameters due to the non-availability of the latter (particularly Gross Domestic Product) at the NPC-SPUG area level as well as of reliable and updated income per capita data. HH connection was chosen as it exhibited a strong correlation with income per capita.
   b) The affordability of existing rates are analyzed based on the payment record of end-users and electric cooperatives (ECs), i.e. ECs and NPC-SPUG's collection efficiency from their respective customers.
10. The SAGR for areas in a group or in the same level of development is the highest prevailing NPC-SPUG rate that is supported by good collection efficiency of ECs from their customers;
11. Employing the above-described methodology in the 14 PSP areas, the SAGRs were determined to be P4.80/kWh for Level 1 Areas and P5.64/kWh for Level 2, 3, and 4 Areas. The SAGRs for the 60 remaining NPC-SPUG follow from these results based on the premise that areas in the same level of development would afford similar generation rates;
12. Another consideration in determining the SAGR is that prevailing NPC-SPUG rates are heavily subsidized and hence, the SAGR should not be set below said NPC-SPUG rates;
13. Also taken into account is the possible administrative burden of having a single rate for each of the 60 remaining NPC-SPUG areas. Thus, the areas were grouped as follows:
    a) Other Luzon Areas (29 areas);
    b) Other Visayas Areas (15 areas);
    c) Other Mindanao Areas (16 areas).
14. The aforesaid grouping is consistent with its proposal in its GRAM petition (ERC Case No. 2004-421). It will consider a new grouping when the areas are deemed mature for PSP or at any other appropriate time;
15. Consistent with its December 6, 2004 filings (ERC Case Nos. 2004-449 and 450), the SAGRs will be adjusted over time in line with true cost and the development of the NPC-SPUG area to reduce the burden on the UC-ME;
16. Based on the methodology, results and recommendations of SAGR study for first wave areas, premises and considerations discussed above, its proposed SAGRs for the remaining NPC-SPUG areas are as follows:

Island Group	Existing Rates w/o DAA	Proposed SAGR w/o DAA	Increase in Rate w/o DAA
Other Luzon Areas			
Group 1	3.71	4.80	1.09
Group 2	3.71	5.64	1.93
Other Visayas Areas	5.64	5.64	0.00
Other Mindanao Areas	4.80	4.80	0.00

17. The areas comprising these groups are as follows:

Other Luzon Group 1	Other Luzon Group 2	Other Visayas	Other Mindanao
1 Busuanga	1 Sibuyan	1 Guintarcan	1 Siasi
2 Ticao	2 Casiguran	2 Doong	2 Dinagat
3 Calayan	3 Kabugao	3 Gigantes	3 Kalamansig
4 Palanan	4 Repu-Repu	4 Caluya	4 Cag. De Tawi-Tawi
5 Lubuagan	5 Balan	5 Pilar	5 Balimbing
6 Patnanungan	6 Tingloy	6 Maripipi	6 Manok Mancao
7 Jomalig	7 Concepcion	7 Limasawa	7 West Simunul
8 Culion	8 San Jose	8 Zumaraga	8 Sibutu
9 Linapacan	9 Lubang	9 Tagapulan	9 Silangkai
10 Araceli	10 Polillo	10 Almagro	10 Tandubas
11 Balabac	11 Cuyo	11 Sto. Niño	11 Loreto
12 Cagayancillo	12 Sabtang	12 San Antonio	12 Hikdop
13 Agutaya	13 Itbayat	13 Capul	13 Abad Santos
14 Curcuera	14 Banton	14 San Vicente	14 Talicud
	15 Basco	15 Biri	15 Balut
			16 Ninoy Aquino

18. The Other Luzon Areas were subdivided into two (2) groups in view of the mix of the areas in terms of levels of development.
    a) Group 1 comprises of 14 Level 1 areas. Therefore, the recommended SAGR is P4.80/kWh, consistent with that of Level 1 areas included in the first wave PSP areas. This would mean an increase of P1.0936/kWh, from the prevailing rate of P3.7064/kWh.
    b) Group 2 comprises of 15 areas in Level 2, 3 and 4 of development. Therefore, the recommended SAGR for this Group is P5.64/kWh consistent with that of Level 2, 3 & 4 areas under the 14 PSP. This would mean an increase of P1.93/kWh from the prevailing rate of P3.7064/kWh.
19. Nine (9) out of the fifteen (15) areas in Other Visayas are Level 1 areas. Similar to Other Luzon, this Group could have been divided into two (2) groups with two (2) different SAGR. However, ECs' collection efficiency range from 87% to 100% indicating that consumers can afford the current rate of 5.64/kWh. Therefore, the proposed SAGR is P5.64/kWh or the existing rate. Moreover, reducing its current rate may not be prudent as its unit production cost and unit losses are highest in Other Visayas based on 2003 actual results of operation;
20. Except for Kalamansig in Sultan Kudarat, all of the sixteen (16) areas in Other Mindanao are Level 1 areas. However, it proposes a common SAGR of P4.80/kWh for all areas in this group in support of the Administration's thrust to promote peace and development in Mindanao, especially in conflict areas like Sultan Kudarat. The proposed SAGR is its prevailing rate in Mindanao and is also the same SAGR proposed for the three (3) Mindanao areas included in the first wave areas, namely, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, and Sulu;
21. The proposed SAGRs for the remaining 60 NPC-SPUG areas were approved by the National Power Board through Resolution No. 2005-10 dated January 24, 2005;
22. Based on forecast for 2005, the implementation of the proposed SAGRs starting July 2005 will reduce its losses for the year by P344 Million in the 14 PSP areas and P57 Million in the 60 remaining NPC-SPUG areas, or a total of P401 Million;
23. Consistent with the December 6, 2004 filings of the SAGR for 14 PSP Areas (ERC Case No. 2004-449) and Proposed Guidelines for Setting Generation Rates and Subsidies (ERC Case No. 2004-450), the SAGRs for the remaining NPC-SPUG areas are proposed to rise over time in the following manner:
    a.) It will adjust in the same proportion and frequency as its True Cost of Generation (TCG) as a result of the application of GRAM and ICERA mechanisms or any other schemes that will be approved by the Commission.
    b.) On top of TCG-based adjustments, it will move in accordance with a Transition Index in line with the expected development of such NPC-SPUG area.
    c.) Fluctuations in SAGR will be passed through to the retail rate charged by the EC.
24. Based on the forgoing and similar to the case of the 14 PSP areas, its petitions to the Commission are to periodically and automatically adjust the SAGR according to the following formula:

$$SAGR_t = SAGR_{t-1} \times \left(\frac{TCG_{t-1}}{TCG_{t-2}}\right) \times (1+T_t)\left(\frac{m}{12}\right)$$

Where:

t-2	=	Date of previous to last adjustment in SAGR
t-1	=	Date of last adjustment in SAGR
t	=	Date of current adjustment in SAGR
m	=	Number of months in between t-1 and t
$SAGR_{t-1}$	=	SAGR applicable from t-1
$SAGR_t$	=	SAGR applicable from t
TCG_{t-2}	=	TCG based on previous to the last ERC-approved GRAM and ICERA
TCG_{t-1}	=	TCG based on the last ERC-approved GRAM and ICERA
T_t	=	Transition Index as proposed in item below

25. Based on the second element of the above formula, that is TCG_{t-1}/TCG_{t-2}, the GRAM and ICERA should allow it to update its TCG and not merely recover past cost increases through the Deferred Accounting Adjustment (DAA) as what was only authorized by the Commission in its Order dated January 5 and 19, 2005 on its petitions for GRAM (ERC Case No. 2004-421) and ICERA (ERC-Case No. 2004-420), respectively. Any approved DAA shall continue to be collected within the recovery period prescribed by the Honorable Commission.
26. For purposes of establishing the initial or base TCG prior to GRAM and ICERA-related SAGR adjustments, it is submitting the True Cost of Generation for the 50 remaining SPUG areas based on the audited actual results of operation for 2003;
27. It is proposing a transition index of 2.5% for all the island groups covering the 60 remaining NPC-SPUG areas. The average growth rate in electricity consumption per capita for each of the island groups during the period 1999 to 2003 were all below four (4%) percent. It may be noted that the transition indices proposed for the first wave areas are 2.5%, 5% and 7.5% for Level 1,2,3 and 4, respectively. Considering that the potential for commercial operation in remaining NPC-SPUG areas is generally not as high as that of the PSP areas, a low transition index is being proposed;
28. The third element of the adjustment formula, that is $(1 + TI)^{(m/12)}$ shall be removed from the formula when $SAGR_t$ computed using the entire formula, is greater than or equal than TCG_{t-1}. In that event, the NPC-SPUG area will no longer be considered as an area requiring UC-ME subsidy;
29. In accordance with the UC-ME setting mechanism proposed in its December 6, 2004 filings, the difference between the SAGR and the actual TCG in absolute terms-whether positive or negative-for a given year, shall be rolled into the UC-ME petition for the subsequent year; and
30. It prayed that its proposed SAGRs and adjustment mechanism including base true cost of generation and transition index for the remaining 60 NPC-SPUG areas be approved by the Commission and that a provisional authority for the adoption of the proposed rates be issued pending hearing of the instant application.

The Commission has set the application for the hearing on the following schedules:

Date and Time	Venue	Particulars
August 21, 2007 – Two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	ERC Hearing Room, 15th Foor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City	Jurisdictional, Pre-trial and Evidentiary hearing
September 17, 2007 – Nine o' clock in the morning (9:00 A.M.)	ERC Cebu Field Office, Machay Building, Gorordo Avenue, Lahug, Cebu City	Evidentiary Hearing
September 21, 2007 – Nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 A.M.)	Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City	Evidentiary Hearing

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the application or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the applicant concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicant, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, the Honorable Commissioners, **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, MA. TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA** and **JOSE C. REYES**, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 4th day of July 2007 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN
Executive Director

(PDI – July 26 & 27; August 2 & 3, 2007)

IC wants 5M Filipinos to be insured

Regulator to promote sale of microinsurance

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION HAS EMbarked on a campaign to get at least five million Filipinos insured by the end of the year.

"We would like to see more Filipinos [becoming] aware of the importance of being insured and getting security," Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said in a briefing yesterday.

Escobillo said that only three million Filipinos so far have availed themselves of voluntary insurance, or insurance outside the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

This is already an improvement from just 1.4 million insured Filipinos as of December 2005, out of a population of over 80 million.

To achieve the 5-million goal, the IC has been holding talks with industry players to see how the insurance penetration rate can be raised.

Escobillo noted that in Singapore, the insurance penetration rate is over 200 percent, which means that some individuals have more than one insurance policy.

Escobillo said one of the plans was to promote microinsurance, by getting cooperatives and mutual benefit associations to sell cheap insurance policies to their members.

Mutual benefit associations are designed to provide clients with financial support in case of sickness, displacement from work and death of members or their relatives.

These social security organizations mostly cater to small clients, such as associations of teachers, military personnel, farmers groups and cooperatives.

But Escobillo said that the promotion of microinsurance would be coupled with stricter regulation of MBAs and cooperatives that sell insurance.

Escobillo explained that regulating the sale of microinsurance was necessary to protect the buying public and raise confidence in microinsurance.

Insurance products already offered by MBAs include those that give death, retirement, education and sickness benefits.

Under Insurance Memorandum Circular No. 9-2006, the premium to be collected from policyholders of microinsurance should not exceed 10 percent of the current daily minimum wage rate in Metro Manila, or about P30 a day.

The circular also states that the maximum life insurance coverage should not be more than 500 times the daily minimum wage rate, or about P150,000.

Escobillo said that her office has set a target to have 20 percent of the Filipino population insured by 2010.

The National Statistics Office has projected that the population will reach 88.7 million by the end of the year and that the population will grow at 2.1 percent over the next five years.

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Mr. Arnel B. Soriano or Ms. Joan F. Salazar

Applicants who are currently employed in Shipbuilding/Ship repair companies will not be entertained

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Crane O/H, Crane, Jib Crane, B/T Crane, Mobile Crane & Sandman (Rigger)
Qualification:
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- With adequate experience
- Preferred

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DBS revises peso forecast

Bank expects currency to hit 44.50 vs $1

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTMENT BANK DBS HAS REvised its forecast on the peso, saying it would close at 44.50 versus the US dollar by the end of the year due to increased investments in the stock market.

DBS earlier projected that the peso would end up at 45.50 against the greenback by the end of the year.

But the Singapore-based bank said that the peso will end up stronger than expected considering its performance in the past weeks.

DBS said that next year, the peso is likely to close at 42.50 versus the dollar, and not just 43 as earlier projected.

"In fact, the peso has been rallying since May 18 when the benchmark Phisix, the stock market index, rose on strong inflow to above its pre-Asian crisis high of 3447.60 seen in February 1997," DBS said in its latest research entitled "PHP: Looking beyond Fiscal Slippages."

DBS noted that purchases by foreign investors of Philippine equities has been increasing, and posted a new record high of P37.20 billion in the second quarter.

The bank said investors were less concerned about the government's fiscal condition, noting that the peso was appreciating despite the poor fiscal performance in the first half.

In January to June, the national government posted a deficit of P41 billion, breaching the official ceiling for the period of P31.30 billion.

This has led to warnings by credit rating agencies that a further slippage in the second half would adversely affect the country's credit standing.

"In contrast to ratings agencies and international organizations, the market is taking the fiscal slippage news in stride. If the missed budget deficit targets had happened a few years ago, it would have surely hurt Philippine assets and its currency because of a current account deficit and flat foreign reserves," DBS said.

The bank also said the foreign exchange market was not too worried about the deficit because of other positive macroeconomic indicators, especially the country's increasing gross international reserves.

The GIR has been hitting new record highs in the past months, standing at $26.40 billion in June, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

DBS said that one good proof of the peso's strength was the decision of the BSP to cut its policy rates by 150 basis points to 6 percent in its July 12 meeting.

By cutting its policy rates, DBS said, the central bank implied that it was not worried about the effect of such a move on the peso.

In fact, DBS said that what monetary authorities wanted now was to temper the rise of the peso.

The peso recently broke into the 44-to-a-dollar territory to settle at its highest level in seven years.

The peso closed yesterday at 45.325 against the US dollar.

Lack of halal products bounds Muslim visitors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S HOSTING NEXT WEEK of the 40th Asean Ministerial Meeting and the dearth of establishments offering halal food show the urgency of drawing up a clear program to promote and support the halal industry.

This is according to Adbul Rahman T. Linzag, president of the only internationally recognized certifier of halal products in the country—the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines.

Halal is an Arabic word generally translated to mean "permissible" and, in relation to consumables, refers to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink in the observance of Islam.

"Because we basically lack a policy on halal that is responsive to actual needs, we are missing out on business opportunities, tourist arrivals and the chance to realize the general goal of cultural integration in Southeast Asia," said Linzag.

"Our Muslim neighbors in the region and even those from the Middle East and other parts of the world tend to skip the Philippines as a holiday or business destination because the very basic issue of food is not a given for them," he said. "For them, visiting the Philippines is inconvenient."

Linzag cited as an example a move of the Malaysian embassy to house its delegates in The Heritage Hotel in Pasay City.

Citing a report form Malaysian news agency Bernama, Linzag said the reason for this was that Heritage was the only one in Metro Manila that serves halal food.

Linzag said many Muslim foreigners visiting the Philippines—whether for a job, education, business deals or simply to holiday—end up bringing their own food.

"Their governments or other sponsoring agencies also advise then on where they can buy 'clean' food or, in the worst case, they simply choose carefully," he said. "Most often, they go for seafood."

Linzag lamented that the government's current approach on the halal issue was focused on certification of products, which "should be left to nongovernment groups."

"What we need from the government are policies, projects and gestures that would encourage production of halal food that would meet the quality requirements for certification," Linzag said.

MARK WATKINSON, CEO of HSBC in the Philippines, spends time with the QC Performing Arts group to mark the HSBC Global Education Trust's launch of Future First, a $10-million program to provide funds to local groups with programs to help street children and orphans. Groups have until July 31 to submit proposals. Forms are available at www.hsbc.com.ph.

ANALOG PHASEOUT

NTC reviews guidelines on digital TV

By Riza T. Olchondra

COMPANIES PLANNING TO broadcast digital programs to TV sets or mobile devices cannot go commercial yet as the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) said it was revisiting its guidelines on digital TV programming.

Sample broadcasts are allowed, however, NTC commissioners said in a briefing after the celebration of the regulator's 28th anniversary.

"Our TWG (technical working group) had formulated their initial recommendations. What triggered the review were the industry inputs we got during a public hearing," NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said in a briefing.

NTC Commissioner Abraham Abesamis said that the TWG will start its review next week.

Deputy Commissioner Jaime Fortes said the group will try to draft the final rules quickly so that the NTC's 2015 deadline for the phaseout of analog TV programming will be followed.

Sarmiento added: "As for mobile TV broadcasts, there are test services now, and some may have the impression that these are already commercial, but they are not. They are just demos."

He was alluding to the broadcasts offered by Smart Communications Inc. and sister company MediaQuest for its myTV offering.

Subscribers are not yet being billed for the service, which has 10 test channels: CNN, MTV Philippines, Cartoon Network, National Geographic Channel, Pinoy Box Office, History Channel, Solar Sports, Basketball TV, ETC and Jack TV.

Philippine Basketball Association games will also be broadcast live starting next season.

When the offering goes commercial, pre-paid and post-paid subscribers will be charged P488 a month.

The NTC officials also said that the commission's collection was expected to improve slightly this year.

Abesamis explained that the regulator does not want to increase fees charged the telcos to help keep costs down for consumers.

He also said NTC cannot raise regulatory fees without the approval of the National Economic Development Authority.

PNOC-EDC takes over key geothermal plants in Leyte

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE PNOC-ENERGY DEvelopment Corp. has taken over the operation of three big power plants in Leyte.

The subsidiary of the government-run Philippine National Oil Co. took over the plants as provided by the build-operate-transfer contracts with CE Luzon Geothermal Power Company and the Visayas Geothermal Power Company, affiliates of CalEnergy International Ltd. Phils.

The 10-year BOT contracts between PNOC-EDC and the CalEn affiliates came to an end last July 25.

Turned over were three power plants: The 180-megawatt Mahanagdong A and B plants and the 231-megawatt Malitbog plant.

CE Luzon Geothermal built and operated the two Mahanagdong plants, while Visayas Geothermal built and operated the Malitbog plants.

All three plants, which are located inside the 107,625-hectare Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF) that straddles Ormoc City and Kananga town, supply power to the Luzon grid through a submarine cable.

The Mahanagdong power plants are located in Ormoc City while the Malitbog power plant is located in Kananga town, 83 kilometers from Tacloban.

The Malitbog power plant is considered "the world's largest geothermal power plant under one roof."

Last year, CalEn turned over to PNOC-EDC the 130 MWe Upper Mahiao power plant.

The Upper Mahiao plant, located in Kananga town, was said to be the world's biggest geothermal plant using the geothermal combined cycle units (GCCU) technology in a single powerhouse.

The Philippines is the second biggest geothermal energy producer in the world, next only to the United States.

The LGPF alone produces around 708 megawatts of geothermal power.

LGPF generates 61 percent of the PNOC-EDC's geothermal output and 37 percent of the total installed geothermal capacity in the country, according to the power company.

IMF cuts Asean growth forecast

From page B1

earlier projection.

The major upward revisions have been for emerging market and developing countries, with growth projections substantially marked up for China, India and Russia.

"Nevertheless, there have been some changes in the IMF staff's assessment of individual risk factors," the statement said. "With sustained strong growth, supply constraints are tightening and inflation risks have edged up, increasing the likelihood that central banks will need to further tighten monetary policy."

The IMF also warned that oil prices remain a concern, while financial market risks have also increased as credit quality has deteriorated in some sectors and market volatility has increased.

On the other hand, the IMF said that some risk areas look "more balanced."

"In particular, while the correction in the housing sector is continuing, overall downside risks related to US domestic demand have diminished somewhat," it said.

Shares close 0.4% higher

From page B1

The composite index rose 14.17 points to 3,659.68 after trading between 3,641.31 to 3,666.29 points. The broader all-share index added 3.90 points to 2,372.42.

Despite the headline index gain, declines led gains 59 to 51, with 55 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 5.5 billion shares worth P7.1 billion ($157.3 million).

"We had a technical bounce influenced by the rebound in the US market but investor confidence remains shaky following the big drop on Wall Street earlier this week," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities. "Today's modest gains (following a 1.6-percent drop on Wednesday) indicate there is still indecisiveness in the market."

Philippine Long Distance Telephone, the biggest company by market value, rose P15 to P2,660, snapping a five-day retreat.

Meralco' A shares rose P2 to P102. Its B shares, which have no ownership restriction, jumped P3 to P105.

The nation's largest power distributor announced during trading hours that its net profit for the second quarter jumped 62 percent year-on-year to P1.81 billion.

Petron Corp. advanced 20 centavos to P6.40 after its results.

San Miguel Corp. A shares were flat at P74 while its B shares fell P2 to P76. *AFP*

Anti-Money Laundering Council

RULE OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS BY THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) under Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 (AMLA), as amended, and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations, the following Rule of Procedure Governing Administrative Investigations by the AMLC Secretariat is hereby prescribed and promulgated.

Section 1. *Title.* This Rule shall be known as the RULE OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS BY THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL SECRETARIAT.

Section 2. *Coverage.* This Rule shall apply to all investigations concerning covered institutions and their personnel in cases of:

(i) violation of the provisions of the AMLA, as amended, and its implementing rules on:
  (a) customer identification and due diligence;
  (b) record keeping;
  (c) reporting of covered and suspicious transactions; and
  (d) duty of covered institutions upon receipt of freeze order or AMLC Resolution authorizing inquiry;
(ii) malicious reporting;
(iii) breach of confidentiality;
(iv) other violations of the AMLA, as amended, and its implementing rules; and
(v) violation of issuances, orders and resolutions issued by the AMLC.

Section 3. *Conduct of Investigation.* If the Compliance and Investigation Staff (CIS), after initial investigation, finds that a covered institution and its personnel committed a violation of the AMLA, as amended, or an AMLA-related offense, the CIS shall submit in a memorandum to the Executive Director its recommendation that the covered institution and its concerned personnel be required to explain in writing and under oath, together with certified true copy of supporting documents, if any, within five (5) working days from notice why no administrative sanction shall be imposed upon them. Should the Executive Director approve the recommendation, notice to the party shall be sent personally or by registered mail.

After the expiration of the reglementary period, the CIS shall proceed with the administrative investigation. The CIS shall transmit the CIS findings and recommendation in a memorandum to the LES for evaluation.

Section 4. *Evaluation.* Should the LES concur in the findings and recommendation of the CIS, the LES Deputy Director shall sign and transmit the CIS memorandum, together with the proposed AMLC Resolution prepared by LES, if necessary, to the Executive Director. Otherwise, the LES shall submit to the Executive Director a separate memorandum containing its own findings and recommendation, together with its proposed Resolution, if necessary, copy furnished the CIS. The LES shall likewise submit the CIS memorandum to the Executive Director. Upon receipt of the LES memorandum, the CIS shall submit to the Executive Director its proposed Resolution, if necessary, based on its findings and recommendations.

Section 5. *Review.* The Executive Director shall review the findings and recommendation of the CIS and the LES, and submit the appropriate memorandum, together with the proposed Resolution, if any, to the AMLC for approval.

Section 6. *Resolution.* If the AMLC approves the findings and recommendation of the Secretariat, it shall adopt the appropriate Resolution.

Section 7. *Finality of decision.* The Secretariat shall furnish the covered institution and its concerned personnel with a copy of the Resolution. The decision shall become final after fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice, unless within the same period, the covered institution and its concerned personnel files a motion for reconsideration. Full compliance or settlement by the covered institution and its concerned personnel in accordance with the decision renders the same final.

Section 8. *Motion for reconsideration; grounds.* A motion for reconsideration may only be entertained if filed within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the Resolution by the covered institution and/or its concerned personnel on any of the following grounds:

(a) Newly discovered evidence which will materially affect the AMLC Resolution.
(b) The AMLC erred in the interpretation of the law or in the appreciation of the evidence in issuing the Resolution.

No second motion for reconsideration in whatever form shall be allowed.

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or section of this Rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the other provisions or sections of this Rule, and the application of such provision or section to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

Section 10. *Publication.* This Rule shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

6 July 2007, Manila, Philippines,

(*Sgd*) **AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.**
Chairman
Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

(*Sgd*) **FE B. BARIN**
Member
Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Commission

(*Sgd*) **EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO**
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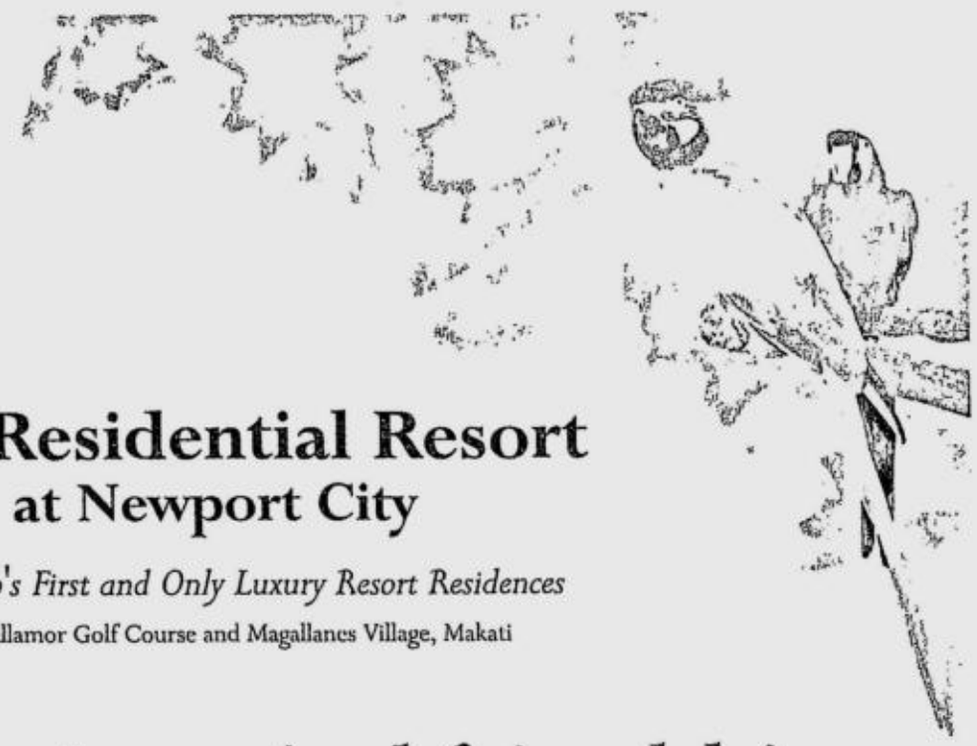

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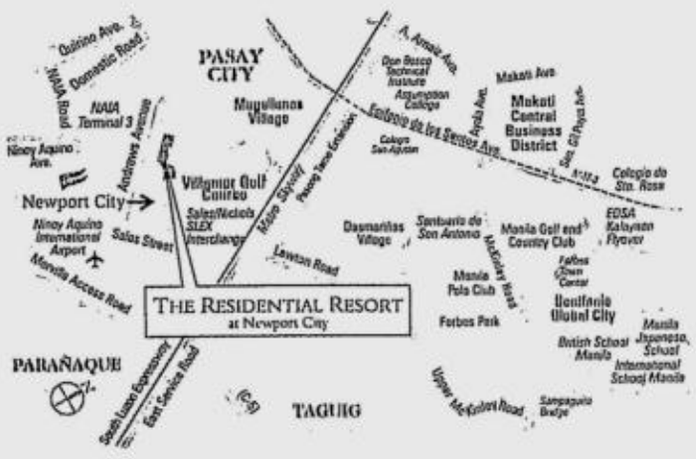

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BUSINE Friday

Business Features Editor
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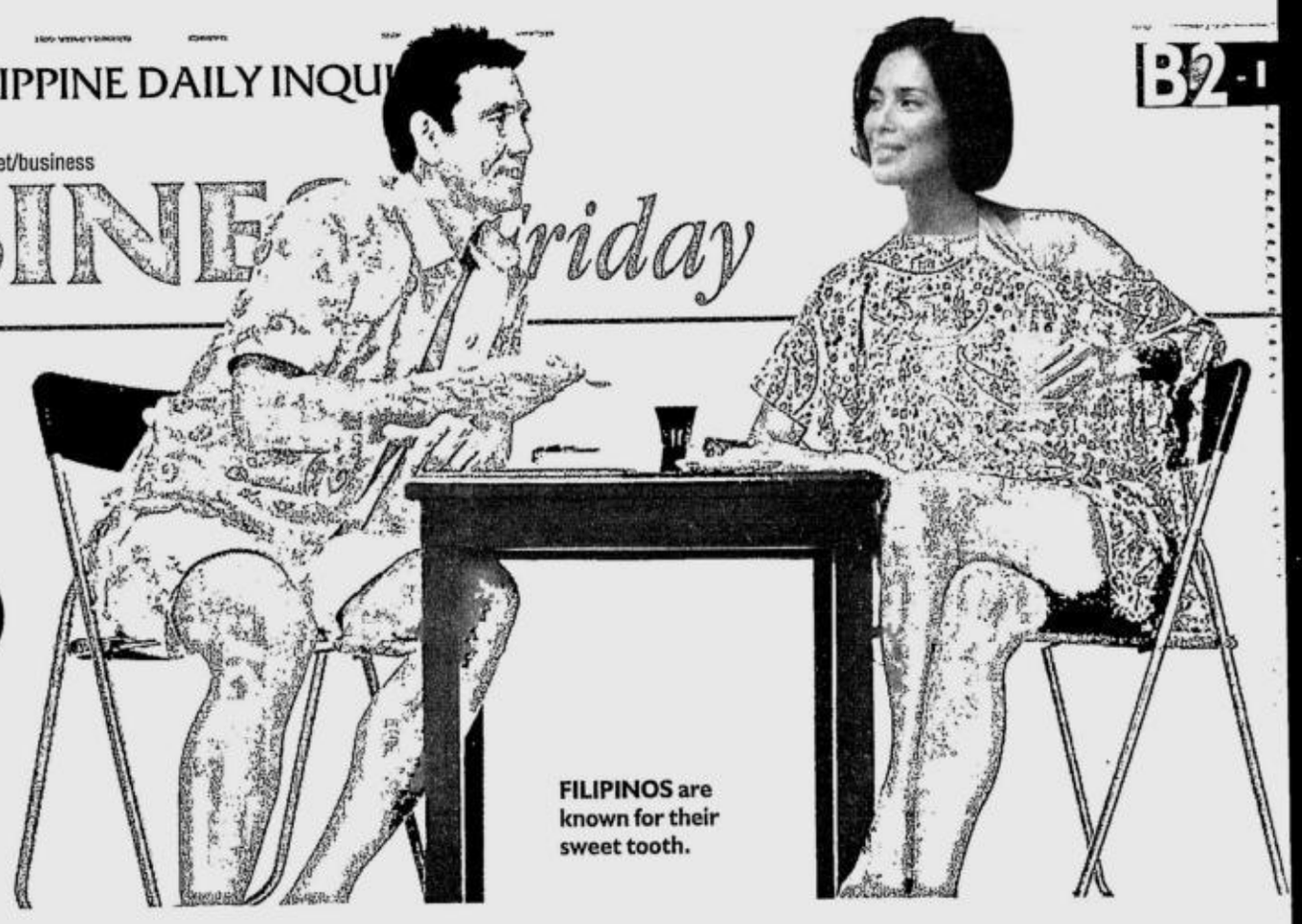
It's not sweet Zero for nothing

New sugar substitute promotes better health



FILIPINOS are known for their sweet tooth.

By Jo Anne E. Padiernos

THE IDEA FOR bringing into the Philippines what is usually referred to as "the mother of all sweeteners" came, quite ironically, from Jagdesh N. Gagoomal's father.

"[In 1999], he came back from one of his trips in India with a package in hand and said, 'You know I've been using this over there. It's very, very good. And it is cheaper compared to other products in the market,'" Gagoomal recounted.

"But at that time I was busy involved in our other imports so I had doubts. I asked myself why I should try it."

Perfect time

Well, precisely because it was the perfect time to launch a natural sweetener.

After all, Filipinos are known for their sweet tooth, and rarely is a celebratory occasion complete without the traditional post-meal sweets. But a health rave that has swept the country has dampened somewhat that saccharine fondness.

People are going to gyms, getting into sports and finding ways to reduce weight. And artificial sweeteners failed to satisfy one's craving for sweets without sacrificing his fitness.

"The [local] market is dominated basically by chemical sweeteners which are made with aspartame. They are not natural sweeteners, so if you have migraine, if you're pregnant ... they aggravate your conditions. They have negative side effects because they are chemical-

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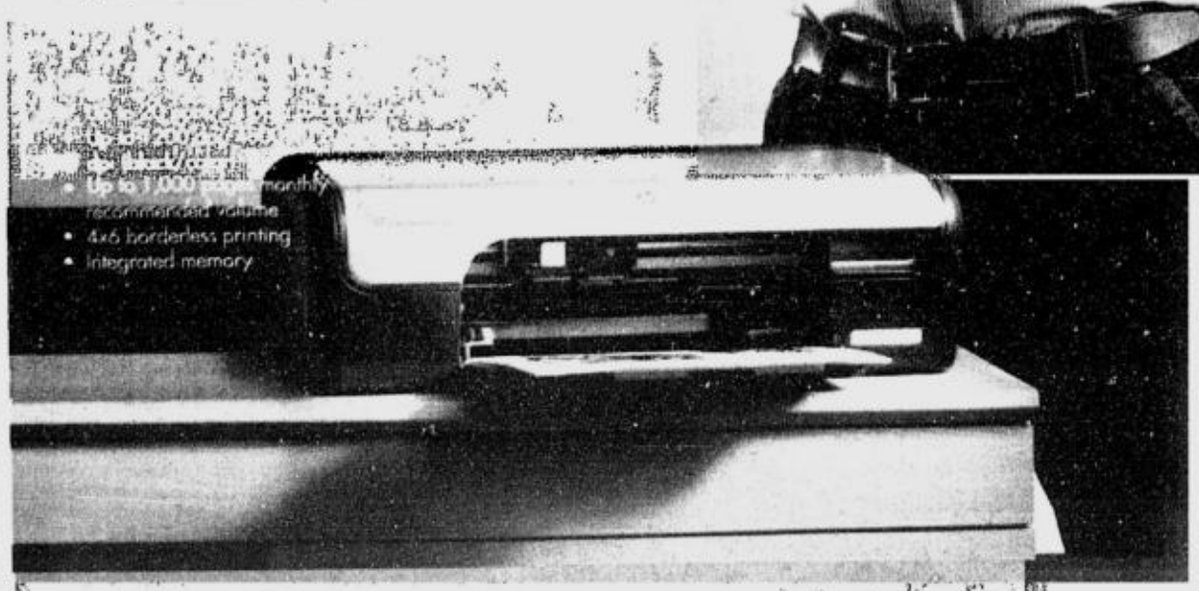

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The bane and boon of being a large taxpayer

(Conclusion)

TAX-FILES

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LARGE TAXPAYERS ARE EXPECTED to comply with certain requirements of the BIR, as follows:

1. Electronic filing and payment

Large taxpayers are mandated to avail of the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS). Under the eFPS, a large taxpayer shall file electronically all tax returns and pay taxes due thereon also electronically, specifically through the Internet. Attachments to such returns shall be manually submitted to Large Tax District Office (LTDO) having jurisdiction within 15 days from the filing of the returns. The LTDO should not be confused as an office separate from LTS. LTDOs are offices under the LTS which are scattered across the country where there are large taxpayers.

Exceptions, however, are payment of capital gains tax and documentary stamp tax involving sale or exchange of real property which shall be at the RDO where the property is located and payment of registration fee of each branches of the taxpayer which shall be at the RDO where the branch is located.

2. Filing and Payment Date

Large taxpayers have a different filing date of returns from non-large taxpayers. Even large taxpayers among themselves have different filing dates of returns depending on the industry the taxpayer is operating in (i.e., retail sale, classified under Group C, WT return shall be filed within 13 days after the end of month).

But generally large taxpayers pay (later than non-large) the taxes due on the returns filed within 25 days following the end of the month.

3. Other additional requirements

A large taxpayer is required to file a consolidated monthly VAT declaration/quarterly VAT, and withholding tax returns (WT) for compensation, expanded and final taxes for the head office and all branches on staggered basis according to industry classification of the taxpayer.

This means that prior to notification, a taxpayer, which has, for instance, a main office in Makati and a branch in Cebu, the main office and the branch are required to file separate VAT and WT returns in their respective RDOs.

As a large taxpayer, however, the company only needs to file the VAT and WT returns at the LTDO of the main office. The application for authority to print official receipts, invoices and other accounting records, register books of accounts and other accounting records and transact other registration-related matters of head office and branches shall be made at the LTDO (no longer in the former RDO).

They shall also submit a list of regular suppliers on a semestral basis (i.e., on or before July 31 for 1st semester and Jan. 31 for 2nd semester).

Large taxpayers are also expected to comply with the requirements imposed on non-large taxpayers such as the e-submission of summary list of sales, purchases and importation (through e-attachment to quarterly VAT returns), e-submission of annual information returns of employees and payees and alphalist (through e-attachment to WT returns), substituted filing of income tax returns of employees, monthly submission of sales report and other information generated by cash register machines and point of sale machines and machine sales generating receipt/invoice and submission of inventory list at the LTDO.

4. Expanded Withholding Tax

Income payments made by a large taxpayer, being a top 10,000 private corporations, to their local/resident supplier of goods and local/resident supplier of services, including nonresident alien engaged in trade or business in the Philippines is subject to withholding tax at the rate of 1 percent for purchases of goods and 2 percent for purchases of services, which must be withheld and remitted by the large taxpayer to the BIR.

Failure to withhold and remit may subject the large taxpayer to deficiency assessments as well as disqualify it from claiming as deduction such purchases from gross income.

Notwithstanding these peculiar requirements, large taxpayers enjoy certain privileges not normally available to non-large taxpayers. This is expected considering the revenues they bring to the government. Of course, why should the BIR allow the hen that lays the golden egg to bathe in a muddy coop?

The BIR is conscious in maintaining harmonious relationships with them and in seeing to it that their welfare is taken care of (at least insofar as lightening a bit the burden of taxes is concerned). The BIR has frequently held social cocktails for these large taxpayers.

Not only that, whenever the BIR comes up with a new project aimed at facilitating and lessening the burden of certain administrative requirements (i.e. computerized accounting system, the eFPS), large taxpayers are the first ones given the opportunity to take advantage of these. Note that before eFPS was required of large taxpayers, they were given priority in the availment of this new system then.

With the eFPS, a large taxpayer or any taxpayer can file and pay its taxes anytime (even after office hours or at 12 midnight) and thus need not worry of catching up on the banking hours.

Considering the relatively smaller number of large taxpayers under the Large Taxpayers Service (compared to those in an RDO), the ratio of a revenue examiner to a large taxpayer being one is to five, the BIR can effectively and efficiently attend to a large taxpayer's needs. Thus, if any problem crops up, for example, an e-payment failed to enter, which occurs normally because of minor lapses in the AAB's end, the LTS can immediately inform the taxpayer of such and consequently may be remedied at once.

If there are new BIR issuances (i.e., revenue regulations, memorandum circulars or orders), only large taxpayers are privileged to be given copies of these updates which are sent directly to their offices.

Currently, there are 1,294 large taxpayers. And the number is expected to grow as the BIR undertakes to attain its tax collection target of 85 percent.

It's not sweet Zero for nothing

From page B2-1

based sweeteners," Gagoomal said.

Part of healthy diet

The solution? The package his heart-burdened dad brought eight years ago, a sweetener labeled Zero.

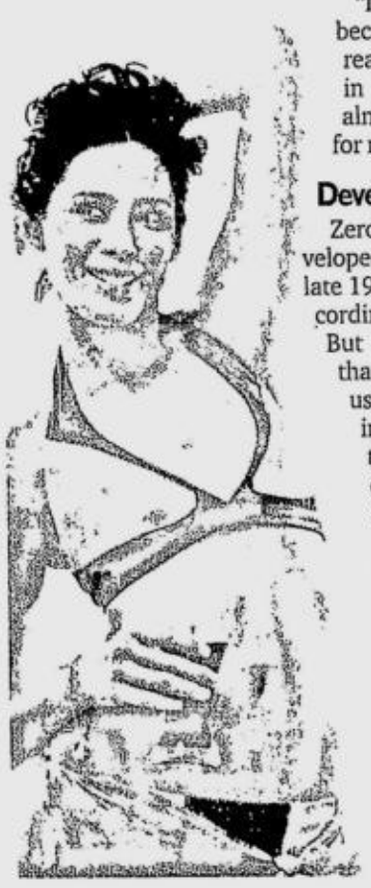
"Zero is the best substitute for sugar," says Gagoomal, president of Orchid Trading Inc. who introduced the product here and now sells and distributes it. "It promotes better health and can be used as part of a healthy diet because it eliminates calories."

Unlike other sweeteners available in the market today, Zero is a natural sweetener. Each tablet of Zero contains 6.5mg sucralose and provides sweetness equivalent to one to two teaspoons of sugar. Sucralose is the only sugar substitute made from sugar. It does not contain aspartame, and it will not leave a bitter aftertaste, Gagoomal explained.

Today, Zero is widely used as tabletop sweetener and as a sugar-substitute for tea, coffee, soft drinks, ice creams, dairy products, jams, bakery products, nutritional supplements, etc. in different parts of the world.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs has approved its sale and marketing. And Gagoomal is hoping Zero can make a dent in the local sweetener industry which, according to him, is very lucrative.

"I was very amazed because here, I got a real market. Market in the Philippines is almost P2.7 billion for retails," he said.



ZERO can be used as part of a healthy diet because it eliminates calories.

Developed in London

Zero was actually developed as early as the late 1970s in London, according to Gagoomal. But it was only later that people started to use it as a sweetening agent despite the problem encountered with sucralose.

"Sucralose is 600 times sweeter than sugar. So the way you formulate it (as a substitute sweetener for sugar) is very, very important. You can't just take it and separately use it because there's no way you can use it. It's too sweet," Gagoomal said.

Zero is a result of vigorous testing and it was proven that it has no negative side effect. "There's nothing that would hurt anyone no matter what they eat. It's great if you're diabetic, or you want to lose weight," he added.

Available

Zero sweetener is already available in different stores today. Gagoomal and his staff are also dealing with the marketing company called Horeco for the sweetener's use in hotels and restaurants. "We want Zero sweetener to be accessible to as many people as possible," he said.

They are also talking with the government already. "A lot of people are diabetic. A lot of people have health problems so we're trying to see if they can include the product in Botika ng Bayan," Gagoomal said.

"We have also talked with dieticians from St. Luke's Hospital, and they want to use the product. They want to include it in their dietary plan. Now, we're studying the possibility of making large packages for Zero made especially for them because right now, Zero is only available in three different packages," he added.

Happy and amazed

"We are very happy with Zero's entry phase in the Philippines. We are very amazed because the response we're getting from the retailers is 99.99-percent acceptance already. Once they see the product, they like the product. They like the product because it's a healthy alternative and it's not targeting any specific age group," said Gagoomal.

In fact, during the launch of Zero last May at the Rockwell Tent, all the drinks and foods that were served were sweetened with Zero. "Tons and tons of desserts were made with Zero so all people who were there actually sampled the product itself," said Gagoomal.

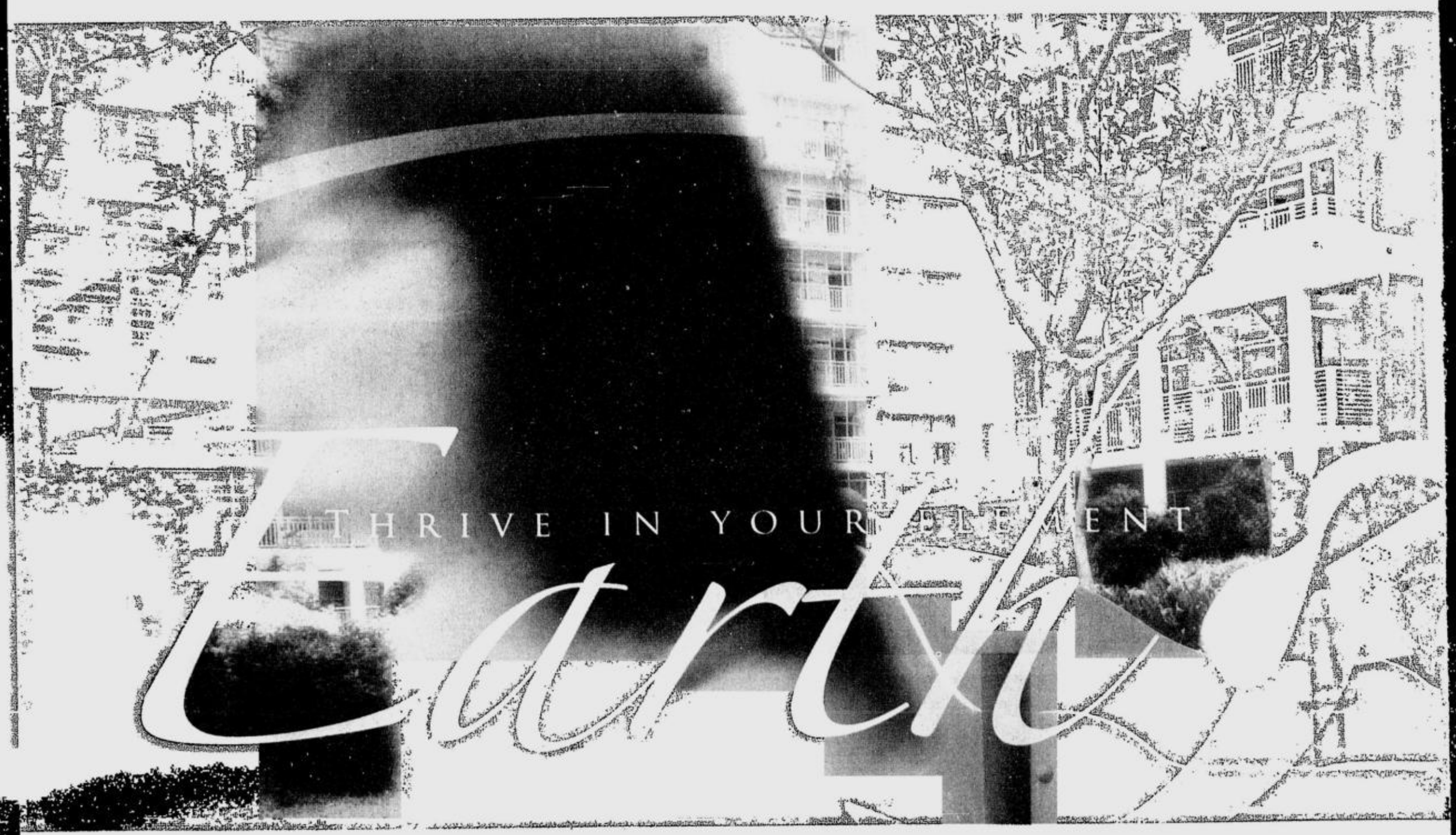
"Zero sweetener is an excellent product. This is the first food product that our 82-year-old company introduced, and we are proud of it. If you can eat healthy, if you can live healthy, then why not [do so]?"

Moderation

However, Gagoomal believes that everything should still be done in moderation even if you're using Zero.

"If you're talking about a healthy lifestyle, you have to work out, you have to watch what you're eating. You cannot just say, 'I'll have this and forget about everything else.' That's a fallacy that everybody has. 'Just one tablet and it's gonna change my life.' It can never really change your life without you keeping yourself balanced. It can help you but it cannot be your substitute for everything else."

For those who might be interested to check out Zero sweetener's health benefits, nutrition information, visit Zero's website at www.livelite.net.



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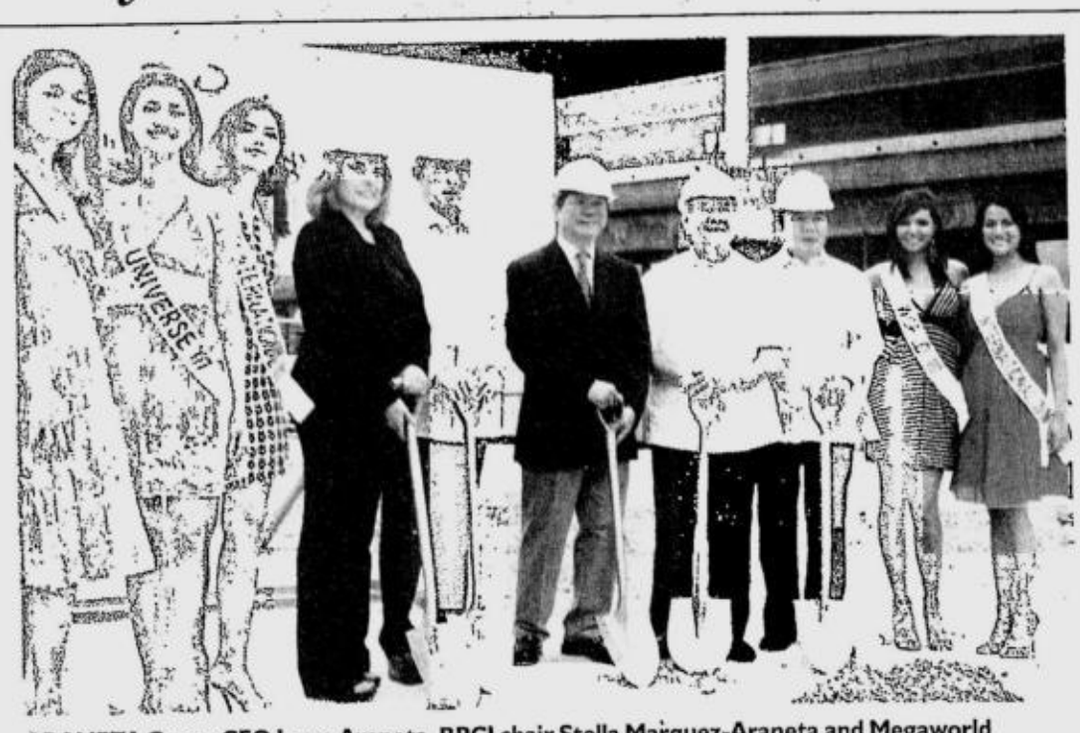
Visit the model units at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everyday from 9am to 8pm. HLURB LTS: 10412, 10464, 14646, and 16664



ARANETA Group CEO Jorge Araneta, BPCI chair Stella Marquez-Araneta and Megaworld Corporation chair and president Andrew Tan led the groundbreaking rites for the Manhattan Parkway Residence, the first phase of Manhattan Garden City. They were joined by the event's guests of honor, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. Also in attendance were the current title holders of Binibining Pilipinas 2007, namely, Nadia Lee Shami (Bb. Pilipinas International), Anna Theresa Licaros (Bb. Pilipinas Universe) and Margaret Wilson (Bb. Pilipinas World) as well as past winners Denille Lou Valmonte (Bb. Pilipinas International 2006) and Margaret Ann Bayot (Bb. Pilipinas International 2004).

GOINGS-ON

Super Bowl's newest branch

TO STRENGTHEN ITS PRESENCE IN THE METROPOLIS as the leading Chinese casual dining chain, Super Bowl of China has opened its 14th branch at the Trinoma Mall in North Edsa, Quezon City. The newest store, with a seating capacity of about 100, serves diners in the northern parts of Quezon City and other nearby cities.

The ribbon-cutting ceremonies were led by Trinoma general manager Javi Hernandez and Rowena Tomeldan, senior vice president of Ayala Malls together with Super Bowl of China managing director Richmond Yang and board directors Robert Epes and Luigi Vera.

Super Bowl's aggressive marketing efforts for this year are aimed at reaching more people in Metro Manila. Notable among Super Bowl's value for money offerings are the Super Servings, a selection of the restaurant's best-selling dishes in large portions good for 8-12 persons and the Super Combo meals, a complete meal offer at budget-friendly prices for solo diners.

Search on for UP entrepreneurs

The search is on for graduates of the University of the Philippines who own growth-oriented and socially responsible small, medium or large enterprises.

Their stories shall be showcased in a casebook entitled "Dreamers, Doers, Risk takers" now on its fourth and final sequel subtitled "Iskolar ng Bayan Gives Back, the Enterprising Way."

Director Ruperto P. Alonzo of the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries, which has been publishing the series since 1998, said the sequel may be considered "a study of how the University has bred enterprising graduates who have helped build the nation by creating jobs, generating income, innovating, showcasing local materials and craftsmanship, and generally contributing to equity and growth."

The book will be launched next year to mark the University of the Philippines centennial.

Pilipinas Shell bags Napocor deal

The National Power Corp. (Napocor) recently awarded a significant volume of its lubricant requirements to Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. (PSPC).

PSPC will supply 70 percent of Napocor's engine oil requirements, a substantial increase from 17 percent in the previous contract.

The three-year lubricants supply deal covers about P556 million worth of lubricating oil for Napocor's power facilities all over the country, most of which are the power plants under the Small Power Utilities Group.

Jay Levinson's five new rules in marketing

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

MarketingRx thanks Jay Conrad Levinson, best-selling author of the "Guerrilla Marketing" book series (more than 14 million copies sold) for being our guest columnist. Levinson conducts two guerrilla marketing seminars today at the Araneta Coliseum and at the Onstage Theatre in Greenbelt, Makati.

Jay Levinson:

Marketing is part art, part science and part business. Because it's such a subjective thing, there are few hard and fast rules. But here are five new ones to guide you in your quest to boost your profits with a minimum investment and avoid nasty surprises along the way.

1. The 10/30/60 Rule

All guerrillas know they have three markets. The largest of those markets and the one that represents the least profits to you is called your universe—everybody within your marketing area regardless of whether they match your customer profile. Guerrillas invest 10 percent of their marketing budget talking to their universe, attempting to move them into their second largest market, one that ranks in the middle for generating profits.

That market is called your prospects, those members of the universe who do fit your customer profile. Your job: Invest 30 percent of your budget in an effort to nudge these people into your third market—your customers, easily your most lucrative source of profits.

Guerrillas invest 60 percent of their budgets marketing to their customers, knowing it costs them one-sixth as much to make a sale to an existing customer compared with marketing to a noncustomer. By investing the most in the market that produces the most profits, yet costs the least to reach, guerrillas maximize their total marketing investment.

2. The 1/10/100 Rule

Now that you know the value of customers, don't overestimate their importance even though it ranks very high. Other marketing investments are even more worthwhile. When guerrillas think of marketing, they know where the real power resides and invest accordingly.

A rule guides them to where they should be putting their time and money. It dictates to guerrillas that $1 spent communicating with their own staff is equivalent to $10 spent communicating with the trade and $100 spent talking to their customers. Customers are glorious and the trade very helpful, but never overlook the marketing power of your own people.

3. The Rule of Thirds

Almost every sane small business owner is now marketing online. Guerrillas have learned how to budget their online investment. They invest one-third of it in designing and posting their website, making it look attractive and be very simple to find.

They invest another third of that online budget to attract people to that site, knowing that marketing that site offline is a key to succeeding with it online. The final third of their online budget is used to improve and maintain their site, keeping it fresh and fascinating. By allocating their online budgets realistically, guerrillas make the most of the Internet.

4. The Rule of Twice

I hate to be the one to break the news to you, but even though the price of technology is dropping and will continue to drop, you've still got to face up to the reality that it will end up costing you twice what you think it will cost to remain truly competitive online as technologies advance and evolve. And you've got to know that you're kidding yourself if you're not staying competitive in that arena.

5. The Rule of The Ruler

You may consider yourself just too busy to attend to run the marketing show. You may have followed in the footsteps of other guerrillas and delegated the marketing function to a designated guerrilla. Still, I think you should know that the very best CEOs are deeply involved in marketing and take full responsibility for it.

While you can delegate the function, you can't really delegate the passion and the vision, making it necessary for you, as the ruler, to take command of the process and keep your eyes on it all along. Follow that rule and you'll never be lead down a garden path by well-meaning but misguided marketing types whose goals may not be quite the same as yours.

Jay Conrad Levinson is the author of the best-selling marketing series in history, "Guerrilla Marketing," plus 30 other books which have sold 14 million copies worldwide in 41 languages.

Levinson taught guerrilla marketing for 10 years at the University of California in Berkeley and practiced it in the United States—as senior vice president at J. Walter Thompson, and in Europe, as creative director and board member at Leo Burnett Advertising. He will be in Manila today, July 27, 2007, for back to back seminars on guerrilla marketing.

E-mail Jay Levinson your questions or comments to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net. God bless!

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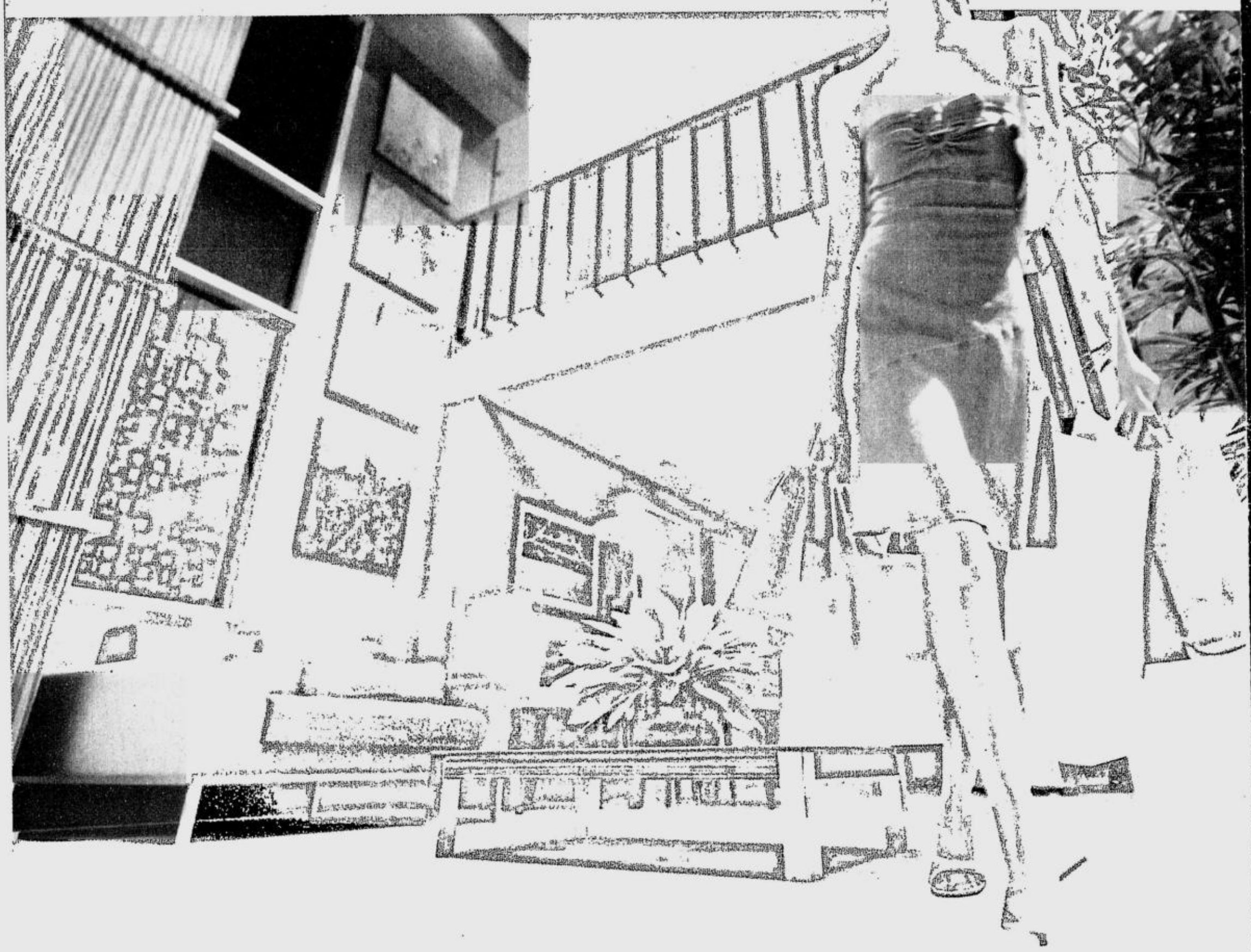

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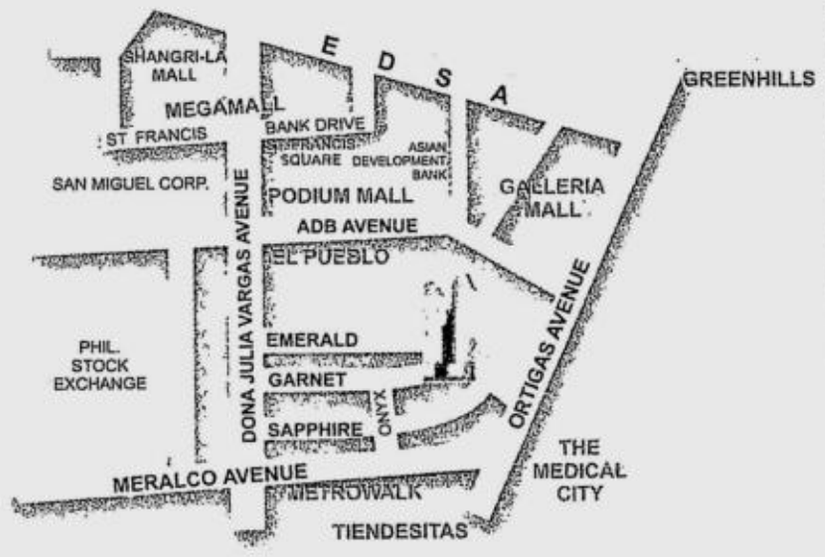

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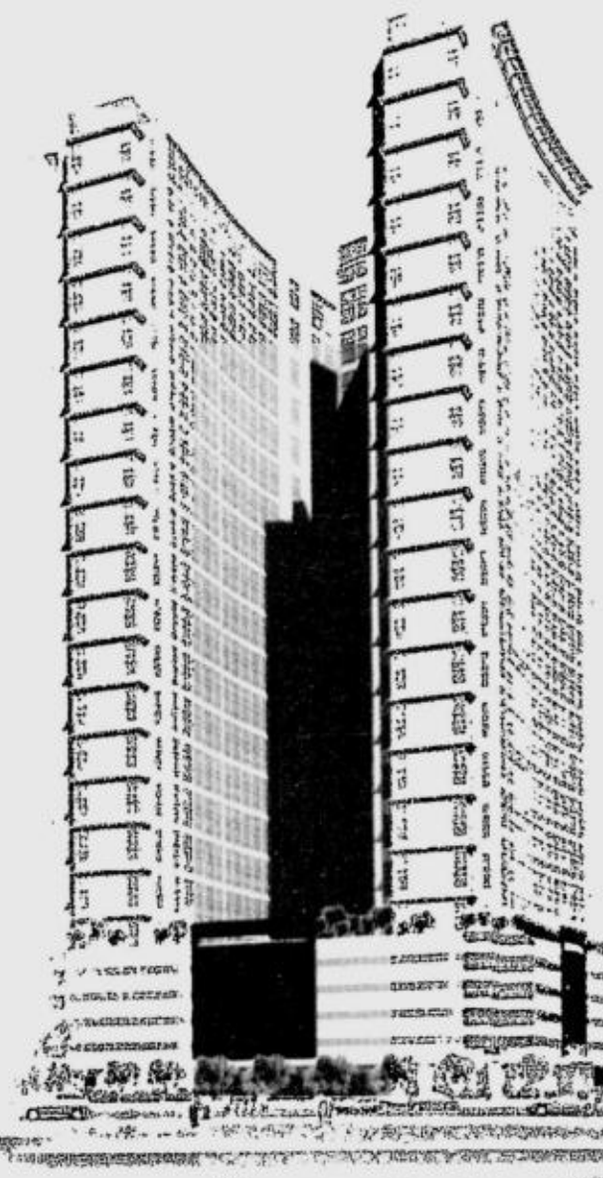

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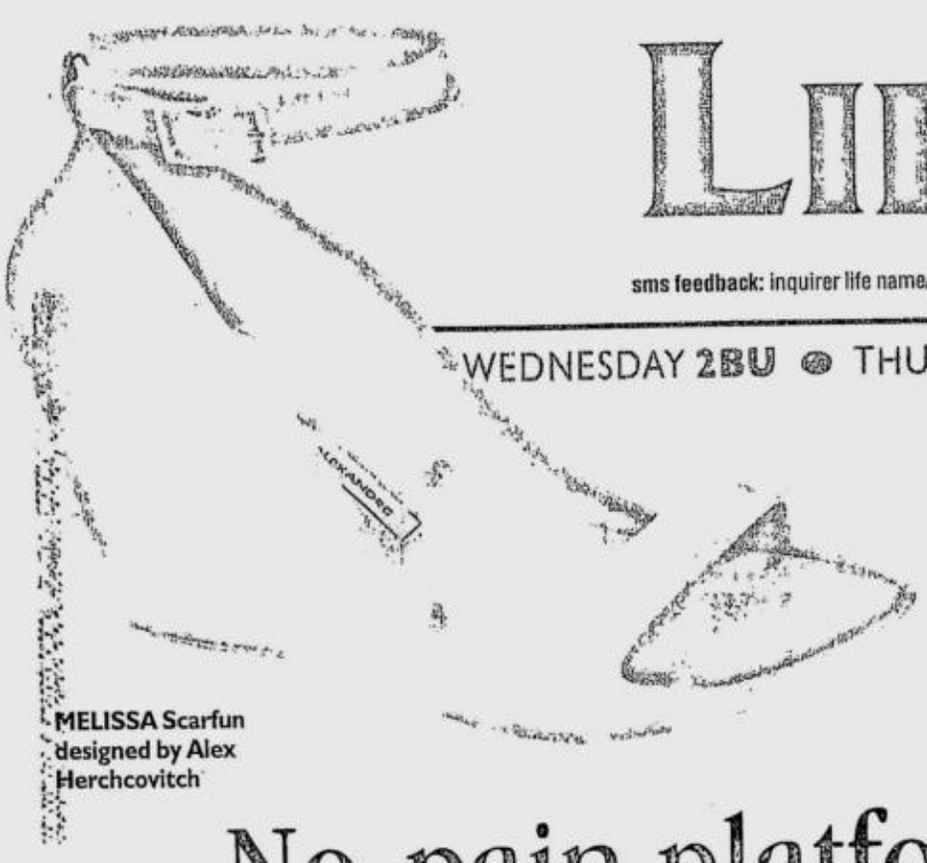

MELISSA Scarfun designed by Alex Herchcovitch

MELISSA Campana ballerina flats designed by Fernando and Umberto Campana

MELISSA Severine + Thais Iosso line

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

No-pain platforms

NO PAIN, NO GAIN. Rather, no pain, no glam. Every girl who wears high heels—and who doesn't?—knows exactly what that means. To wear those shoes with stratospheric heels is to test your tolerance for pain.

I have great pain tolerance for Caesarean birth, but honestly, not for 4-inch-and-above high heels. After the **Auggie Cordero** show at Peninsula three weeks ago—literally after—I shook off my heels and padded barefoot around the ballroom and the lobby—an act which went unnoticed since my gown skimmed the floor anyway.

That was a better option than being borne around like cattle by an extreme-sportsman boss who actually offered to do so after he saw my extreme discomfort.

You could just imagine my disbelief and gratitude when this fresh-grad pretty *"chinita"* dropped by our office recently to show off her merchandise to our fashion editors: lovely platforms and high heels—in very soft plastic.

Joanna Co had just graduated last March with a degree in Communications Technology from Ateneo, when her company (Istila Companhia) decided to bring in the world-renowned Melissa brand.

Design innovator

Melissa is the fashionable shoe brand of the Brazil firm Grendene, one of the world's biggest footwear manufacturers since 1971. It developed the technology of "injected thermoplastic," as its sleek product magazine says. This plastic-like material trademarked as Melflex is molded to the foot, is hypoallergenic and super-comfy.

Through the years, Melissa has presented itself not only as innovative technology company but more so as a design innovator. A shoe is not a shoe, but a fashion accessory.

The company has collaborated with the world's leading designers and architects to design its lines. Among these are architect **Zaha Hadid**, the first woman laureate of the Pritzker Prize for Architecture; home design brothers **Fernando** and **Humberto Campana**, British fashion designer **Judy Blame**, Egyptian designer **Karim Rashid** and Brazilian designer **Alexandre Herchcovitch**. Melissa's creative director is **Edson Matsuo**, a multifaceted art professional.

I've noticed the past few years how Brazil has built a world market for its plastic and rubber technology. Remember the "jelly," the "kelly bag" and of course, the Havaianas? Melissa is now considered a world fashion icon, having manufactured 50 million pairs the past 25 years, 20 million of them exported to 80 countries.

Joanna's group became familiar with the brand online. You'd fall in love with its designs, and the feel of plastic which you can bend and squeeze. More than that, the shoes are a marriage of design and technology that you can wear all day.

Imagine being on stilettos or platforms the whole night, but feeling as if you have Havaianas on. That's exactly how the Melissa Herchcovitch platform felt—comfortable and cushy.

This is the era of plastic/rubber fashion technology that feels like a cushion beneath your feet. (There's Havaianas, then Crocs and now Sanuk.)

Aside from the Herchcovitch platforms which come in pink, green, black and white, there's also the ballerina flats designed by the Campana brothers in glittery gold, black, white, purple and pink. They're called Zigzag slippers because the design is a mesh of lines.

Melissa caught my attention because the shoes represent for me where fashion is going. It's going to high-technology but borne on the shoulder of cutting-edge designs that should be feminine, seemingly natural and "human" (appealing to our senses).

And this marriage of ultra-modern technology and design must serve us in our daily lives. What good are well-designed stilettos if you can wear them only for five minutes?

Since this is a big manufacturer, its merchandise has good price points. A Melissa pair is between P2,000-P4,000. (The shoes are now available at Mia Bella at Serendra, Culte Femme at Rustan's and Mix Boutique at Greenbelt.)

Anna and Ado

Who came to town last week? The first Asian supermodel, **Anna Bayle**. This New York-based model-turned-online journalist is here for a week to rest and meet old friends before flying to other Asian cities. She's with 9-year-old son **Callum**.

Ana caught the tail-end of the Samsung Metrowear Series (Next Generation) last week at Rockwell Tent. She walked right smack before the Lifestyle Network camera, then we hustled her off to the post-event dinner at Mati with **Joji Dingcong, Kevin Tan, Pen Roque, Angie Limbaco, Monchet Olives, Alya Honasan, Raul Manzano, Carlo Tadiar, Ernie** and **Jeena Lopez, Leica Carpo** and **Tessa Valdes.**

Over the weekend, **Ado Escudero** hosted an extravaganza: his 74th birthday dinner at Villa Escudero in Quezon, this time Brazilian-themed, with luscious-bodied Brazilian guy and girl models dressed up—or rather, undressed—by Ado's bosom friend, **Patis Tesoro.**

Escudero parties make irresistible copy not only for their mammoth scale but more so for their out-of-this-world concepts. They arise from the man's sheer zest for life. **Ernest Santiago**, another massive-idea guy, took photos for us. **Larry Leviste** tipped us off that designer **Puey Quinones** literally lost the clothes off his back.

Chingbee Kalaw Cuenca bought on the spot the reversible coat in black and Poiret-inspired print which Puey was wearing, while Anna Bayle stripped Puey of the white cotton skirt pants/dress. Puey had to borrow Larry's sarong to wear on his way back to Manila.

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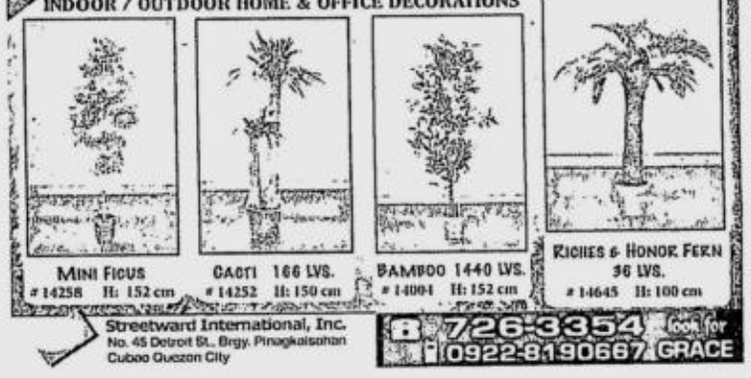

MINI FICUS # 14258 H: 152 cm
CACTI 166 LVS. # 14252 H: 150 cm
BAMBOO 1440 LVS. # 14004 H: 152 cm
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TV host and actress Chesca Garcia wearing Adidas Originals dark blue hooded polyester track jacket with gold stripes and oversized cuffs

The bold and the original

SLEEK IS A LINE ESPECIALLY created by Adidas for women. The fall/winter 2007 collection includes pieces inspired by Kimono, Paisley and Neon, as well as a capsule collection designed by Fafi, the well-respected French woman street artist. Original Adidas footwear styles are transformed into elegant and sleek dress shoes that adhere closely to tradition.

As with the Sleek line, the other main themes for men and women in the Adidas Originals fall/winter collection celebrate the inspiring lifestyles of individuals who are making their mark in music, entertainment, television, dancing, modeling, and more.

Ambassadors

Some of the Adidas brand ambassadors who personify today's youth are celebrities Jay-R and Kris Lawrence, Patrick Garcia, Doug Kramer, Marco Alcaraz, Bianca King, Nancy Castiglione, Chesca Garcia, and Iya Villania.

Also embodying the Adidas spirit are rock bands Up Dharma Down and Spongecola, as well as hip-hop world champion The All Stars dance group.

DJs Mo Twister, Mojo Jojo,

THE BOLD/ C3

THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood³ is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood³ is the young Filipino—unplugged.

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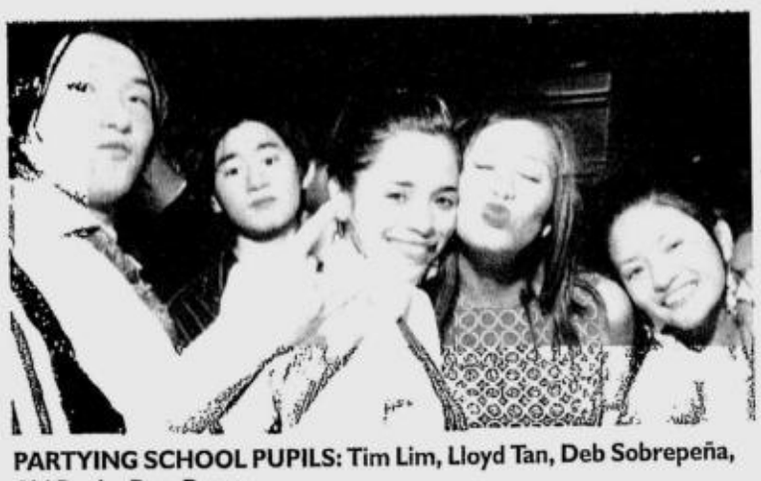


PARTYING SCHOOL PUPILS: Tim Lim, Lloyd Tan, Deb Sobrepeña, Abi Ponio, Pam Bravo

BACARDI'S marketing manager Kat San Diego with the main man himself, Rajiv Ghumman, and marketing executive Bibe Martinez

ANTHONY Demaria, Terence Thurber, Rosario Herrera

IT'S IN THE BLOOD: Esteena and Brent Javier

WORLD CHAMPS: The All-Stars

DJ VIRMAN Power, 106 FM Los Angeles

BACARDI'S Ito Zamora and Globa One's Ivan Zalameda

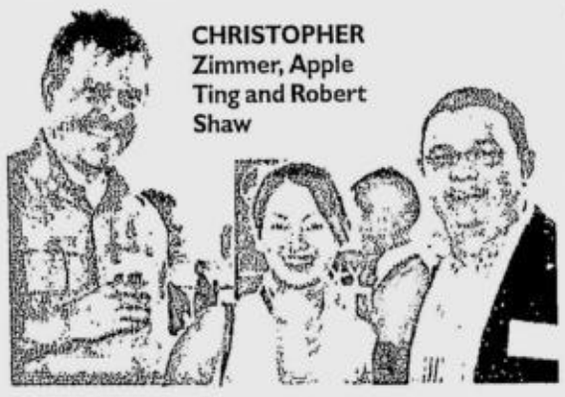
Fashionably back to school

ALEXA Say

ATENEO'S Bianca Crisologo

DE LA SALLE'S Nina Estacio

THEY love big toys, too: Jay Gonzales, hostess of the affair Grace Ang, Melissa Romualdez and Nikki Carlos



CHRISTOPHER Zimmer, Apple Ting and Robert Shaw

MEGA businessman Charles Palanca

GORGEOUS faces: Liz Almoro and Ms Philippines Earth Jeanne Harn

GOOD-LOOKING Jinno Rufino

ARTHUR Ty of Metrobank; man of the hour CATS Motors president Felix Ang; president and CEO of DaimlerChrysler South East Asia Dr. Ranier Thiel; and Emy Arcilla

THE TOWN'S PARTYING SCENE, *palanggas*, seems endless. After Boracay summer parties, there were the "all-white" events, and then lately there were the back-to-school bashes, one of them held at Embassy.

The Embassy party was inspired by the preppy school uniforms of private boarding schools, dahlings. Invitees paraded in school fashion, the guys wearing neckties and sweaters, and the gals wearing midriff tops and plaid skirts, as well as knee-high socks.

The event was superbly hosted by Embassy's popular **Jon Herrera**, together with Manille's coolest partyphiles; **Bianca Crisologo** from Ateneo, **Nina Estacio** from La Salle, and **Angela Litton** from Assumption College.

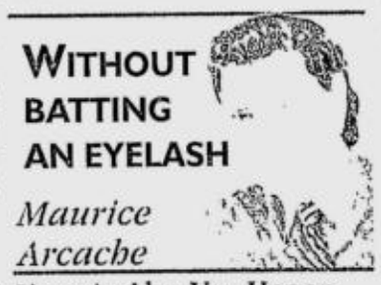
Bacardi served its famous cool Mojitos and Bacardi Blue Lagoon cocktails.

Heading the pack was Marc Ecko Apparel's top honcho, **Ivan Ong**, and the firm's marketing team.

Also present were **Donna Santos** and Bacardi's main man, **Rajiv Ghumman**, trade and marketing executive **Genevieve Martinez**, and **Au Aguilar**.

Dressing up in their craziest back-to-school outfits, and mixing it up with Marc Ecko Apparel, were top personalities on the fast lane such as **Will Devaughn**, the Philippine Hiphop champs and **Erik Cua**, among several other night owls, *palanggas*.

Jetting in from Los Angeles was Power 106 Wow **DJ Virman**, who rocked the dance floor till way past the break of dawn. Also spinning music were Styles Entertainment's very own **DJ Ace Ramos** and **DJ Mars Miranda**, no less, *palanggas*.



WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

New Mercedes-Benz

Our town's big boys who just can't get enough of big toys would be ecstatic to know that they can add another big toy to their collection with the uber chic launch of the *tres* chic Mercedes-Benz, *palanggas*.

Cats Motors Inc. (CMI) introduced on the red carpet the awesome, ultra sleek, new Mercedes-Benz C-Class. It's got power, dynamism and graceful appeal, and is aimed for stylish, refined people looking for luxury, quality, innovation and safety on the road.

The gorgeous sunset in Manila Bay turned out to be an ideal backdrop in the launching at One Esplanade. Seen were Harbour Center's **Michael Romero**, Lamoiyan president **Cecilio K. Pedro**, socialite and Consul of Angola **Helen Ong**, with **Evie Costa** and **Naty Papa**; lawyer **Mike Toledo**; **Sam Sarpong** with **Jen Rosendahl**; **Henry Sy Jr.** and **William Go**, who were all absolutely fascinated by the elegance only a Benz can deliver, *palanggas*.

CATS Motors chairman **Gregorio T. Yu** announced that the Mercedes-Benz business "has grown substantially these past few years and I'm sure we are well on our way."

The ambiance and setup were purely sophisticated, dahlings, and adding more dash were the emcees, **Tricia Chiongbian** and **Rovilson Fernandez**.

Cocktails and delectable food were provided by Hizon's Catering, and overflowing drinks were sponsored by Johnnie Walker during this *tres* classy occasion fit for the gorgeous, hot Mercedes-Benz C-Class, no less, *palanggas*.

Bollywood turns 2

One of my favorite restos is definitely Bollywood Bistro Bar, dahlings. So when the owner of this *tres* popular restaurant, **Larry Cruz**, invited me to celebrate its second anniversary, without batting an eyelash *moi* and some pals dashed over to the third level of Greenbelt 3, *palanggas*, where a glittering cocktail dinner celebration took place with professional belly dancers and the best Indian *tabla* and sitar players providing all-night entertainment.

But the main attraction were the excellent, exquisite dishes from India—from spicy hot to mild and refreshing—as selected by Bollywood's most glamorous stars themselves, *moi* was told.

Indian food writer **Bulbul Mankani** asked the Bollywood superstars—from **Shah Rukh Khan** to **Preity Zinta**—for their favorite Indian dishes and recipes. These were kitchen-tested by Indian cuisine specialty chefs and will now comprise the new menu to be offered at Bollywood as it dances its way to Year 3, dahlings.

Digging into the yum-yum dishes were **Dante Silverio**; **Vishnu Hathiramani**, **Arjun Shroff** and **Doulani Trilok** of the Philippine Indian Chamber; jazz prince **Richard Merk** and wife, Bank of the Philippine Islands' **Roni Tapia-Merk**; prominent Bacolod belle **Lyn Gamboa**; former Ms Philippines-Universe **Karen Agustin**, plus tons of others who love Indian cuisine and music like I do, *palanggas*.

New bookstore

Moi didn't make it to the opening, but I checked it out a couple of winks later, *palanggas*. I am referring to Bestsellers. I was super glad to see how the renowned National Book Store has created the newest destination for all book fanatics. Bestsellers is an awesome two-floor haven for all reading enthusiasts, found in the heart of town.

Brightly lit and well-organized, it is fully stocked with the best selection of books that cover any and all subjects.

Bestsellers is like your favorite library, dahlings. Upon entering, you instantly see the sheer variety of books. You can take time browsing at the reading bars scattered about the floor area.

The new bookstore aims to make reading and owning one's book an even more popular and less intimidating activity. The Bestsellers launch encouraged buyers to collect more good selections. For all of us curious browsers, it's great to really know about the value of investing in good-quality published works, *palanggas*.

Check out Bestsellers at the fourth floor of Robinsons Galleria, Edsa and Ortigas Avenue.

HOTSHOT restaurateur Larry J. Cruz, businessman Ramon Orosa, opera singer Rachelle Gerodias, former senator Kit Tatad and Guy Sacerdoti

BOLLYWOOD glam: Angie Goy, former Ms Philippines-Universe Karen Agustin, Doulani Trilok with a pretty little Indian Miss

CYRIL Means, Becky Garcia, Pinky David

ARCHITECT-DESIGNER of most LJC restaurants Agustin Goy with daughter Abby

SILK Cocoon's Jeannie Goulbourn

ACTOR Joel Trinidad

MERLE dela Peña

LJC'S daughter, Lorna C. Ambas

PAULO Francisco and CATS Motors' Andros Villaraza

CARMINA Sanchez, ace photographer Wig Tysmans, Marie Claire editor in chief Myrza Sison and Angel Jacob

MEGA chef Margarita Fores

BOSSA nova princess Sitti with National Book Store grand matriarch Socorro Ramos

RACHY Cuna, Presy Ramos, Xandra Ramos of Crossings

The bold and the original

From page C1

R&B singer Jay-R wearing Adidas black polyester track jacket, Adidas black beret, and three-striped multi-colored Adidas rubbershoes

ANGEL Aquino wearing Adidas Originals cream thick jacket with faux fur collar piping and gold buckle jacket enclosure

and MTV VJ Andi 9 have also imbibed the Adidas spirit, just like Angel Aquino and Ryan Agoncillo.

Materials of the World is a collection of limited edition highlight items, reinventing well established Adidas silhouettes by drawing inspiration from the world's diverse cultures. Each product gives a glimpse of a unique way of life through the use of traditional materials from such countries as Peru, Canada, England, Greenland and Japan, among others.

With the men's focused Clean Casual range, Adidas Originals offers essential basics in a wide variety of looks, fits and smart styles. A cross-over approach is featured in these pieces.

The Ali by Adidas collection presents the Ali Values Project featuring the works of contemporary artists in celebration of the ideals that Ali embodies: respect, confidence, dedication, conviction, spirituality, and giving.

Other Adidas Originals collections include Porsche Design and Goodyear from the Mobility line, the NBA collection, Flavours of the World, and limited edition Superstars.

ACTRESS and model Bianca King wearing Adidas Originals Cameroon red, white, and yellow jacket with black three-striped detail and lion print

MYX VJ Iya Villania wearing Adidas Originals polyester Cuba football track jacket in blue, red, and white with Cuba flag detail and Adidas Sleek velcro enclosure women's shoes

MAGIC 89.9's much-talked about DJs: Andi 9 (also recently crowned MTV VJ) wearing polyester NYC track jacket in red, blue, and white, Adidas Sleek red and white three stripe shoes; Mo Twister in Adidas Originals basic three-striped cotton tee and laced Sport Performance rubber shoes; and Mojo Jojo wearing Adidas Originals cotton polyster track jacket and Sport Performance training shoes

INTRODUCING THE HEALTHY & RIGHT SWEETENER FOR YOU:

zero

ZERO CALORIE SWEETENER

Made with SUCRALOSE, America's Favorite artificial sweetener base!

With the BFAD Seal of Approval

No Calorie, All Sweetness.

What you see is what you get, down right straight to the point. No Calorie. All sweetness. Just take a look at Multimedia Lifestyle icon ANGEL AQUINO & World Bowling Living Legend, PAENG NEPOMUCENO. Both of them have virtually led a career of sustained excellence and they certainly know how to remain on top of their respective fields. This includes the healthy choices they make, and for Angel & Paeng, it could only be ZERO, the zero calorie sweetener. The BFAD approved sucralose based artificial sweetener tasted uncannily like sugar; just add to your favorite beverage and experience your drink like never before. For the culinary expert, ZERO Cook & Bake is ideal for your desired creations with intensified sweetness minus the after taste. Know the difference, buy ZERO, the zero calorie sweetener.

Benefits derived from using Sucralose based artificial sweetener:
- Ideal sweetener for diabetics
- Made from sugar, tastes like sugar
- Prevents tooth decay
- Great for weight & calorie watchers
- Stable in high temperatures Perfect for cooking & baking, no after taste
- Safe for individuals with special health conditions (ie pregnant women)
- No harmful side effects

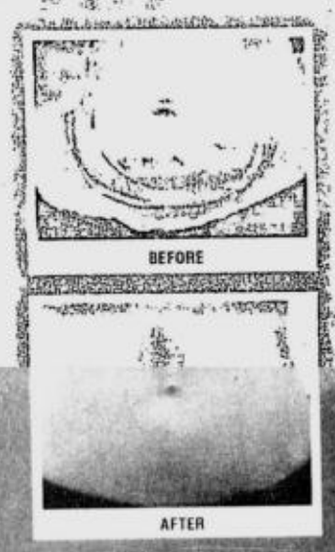
Available in three packs, Box of 25 sachets, 70 gram Cook & Bake jar & Tablet dispenser

RAFAEL "PAENG" NEPOMUCENO
Multiple World Bowling Champion, Hall of Famer

ANGEL AQUINO
Actress & TV Host par excellance

ORCHID TRADING INCORPORATED

Subtract Inches and Add Confidence!



What normally takes months in the gym, you can lose at Zunic in as little as 45 minutes!

Zunic's Slimming and Body Sculpting Method™ melts away unsightly body fat without surgery, diet, pills or exercise. The dissolved fat is naturally flushed out by the body, which means zero recovery time.

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slimming & body sculpting

Experience dramatic inch-loss and start feeling better about how you look. Get a Zunic trial package today!

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PAYDAY SALE

Sale Period: July 27 to August 19, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2916, series of 2007

MAKATI Supermart

CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET

UniMart

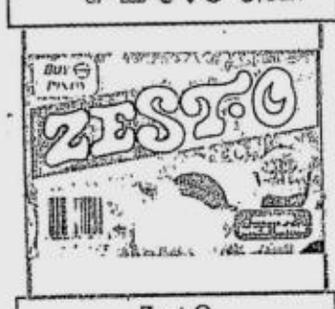
French's
Potato Sticks Original
42g **P20.50**/can

A1
Steak Sauce
Regular, Bold & Spicy, Roasted Garlic, Sweet & Tangy
283g **P154.50**/bot

Chinese Kangkong P26.25/kg • **Native Spinach P57.75**/kg • **Labuyo P63.00**/kg • **Ya Pears P36.75**/kg • **Solo Papaya P23.10**/kg • **Pineapple Medium P23.10**/pc • **Washington Red Apples P84.00**/kg • **Rambutan P68.25**/kg • **Santol Bangkok P42.00**/kg • **Tamarind Bangkok P204.75**/kg • **Flames Seedless Grapes P180.00**/kg • **Calamansi P36.75**/kg • **Eggplant P21.00**/kg • **Avocado P39.90**/kg • **Green Papaya P15.75**/kg • **Ampalaya P47.25**/kg • **Sitao P44.10**/kg • **Celery P68.25**/kg • **Cucumber P26.25**/kg

Post
Honey Bunches of Oats w/ Almonds Cereals
453g **P189.50**/pkg

Golden
Bonbon Nougat
Crunchy Almond, Crunchy Maple, Soft Orange, Soft Maple, Soft Almond
140g **P214.50**/pkg



Zest-O
Juice Drink
Orange, Grapes, Strawberry, Pineapple, Guyabano, Calamansi, Apple
10x200ml **P46.50**/bot

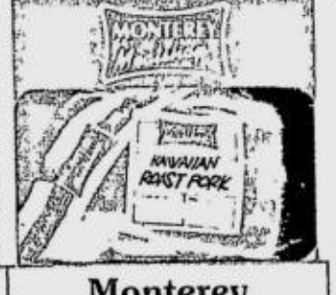
Nestle
Baby Ruth Bar, 6's
357g **P102.50**/pkg

Magnolia
Fresh Chicken Breast
P115.00/kg

Magnolia
Fresh Chicken Shanghai
P157.00/kg

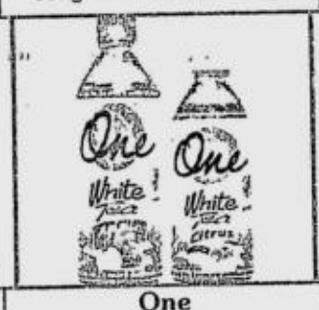
Purefoods
Tender Juicy Hotdog Cheese Balls
1kg **P161.90**/pkg
Sizzling Delights Sisig
350g **P78.40**/can

Monterey
Pork, Country Style Tocino
P175.00/kg



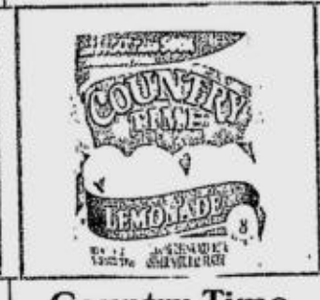
Monterey
Roast Hawaiian Pork
P195.00/kg

Magnolia
Healthtea Flavored Tea Drink
Lemon, Apple
500ml **P13.75**/bot



One
White Tea Drink
Citrus Blast, Peach Passion, Apple Cooler 500ml **P16.50**/bot
355ml **P12.00**/bot

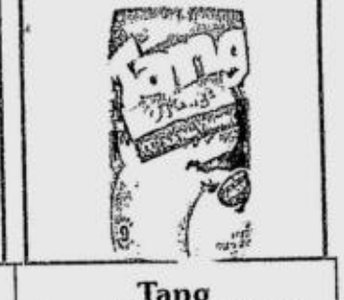
Welchade
Juice Drink
Grape, Watermelon Strawberry, Strawberry Kiwi
360ml **P30.00**/bot



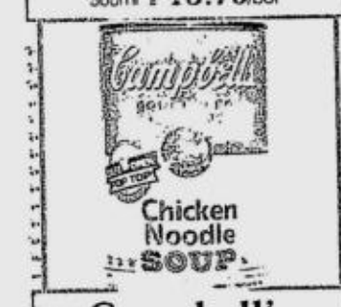
Country Time
Lemonade Drink Mix
538g **P118.50**/bot

Del Monte
Prune Juice
Regular 946ml **P128.50**/bot
Enriched w/ Calcium
946ml **P128.50**/bot

Welch's
Purple Grape Juice
1.36L **P156.50**/bot



Tang
Orange Powder Drink Mix
898g **P185.00**/bot

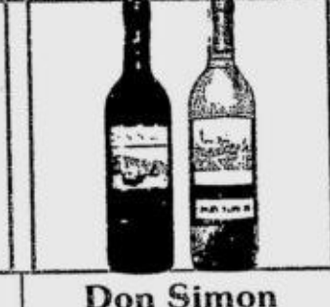


Campbell's
Chicken Noodle Soup
305g **P38.25**/can

Absolute Distilled Drinking Water
500ml **P53.75**/bot 500ml **P48.95**/bot
1000ml **P40.25**/bot
100 Plus
Isotonic Sports Drink Regular, Activ
500ml **P19.90**/bot

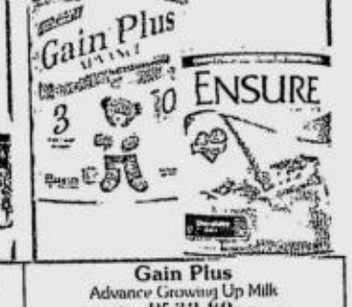
Lady's Choice
Sandwich Spread 470ml **P86.00**/bot
Knorr Cream of Mushroom Soup
70g **P25.75**/pkg
Sinigang sa Sampalok Mix
40g **P15.50**/pkg

French's
Honey Mustard Squeeze
340g **P118.50**/bot



Don Simon
Red, White Wine
750ml **P128.25**/bot

Ken's Simply Healthy
Pineapple, Pandan
P33.25
Olivasol
P187.25



Gain Plus
Advance Growing Up Milk
700g **P532.80**/can
Ensure
Powder Milk Vanilla & Choco
1kg **P1,291.25**/can

Mornflakes Quick Oats 800g **P70.95**/pkg
Cisco's
Crisp Choco, Bitty Choco, Milk Choco
85g **P107.50**/pkg
Nabisco
Chips Ahoy! Reduced Fat Chocolate Chip Cookies
454g **P133.50**/pkg

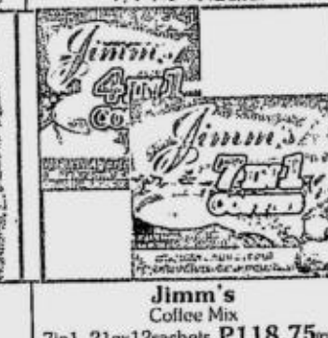
White King
Classics Puto Steamed White Cake Mix
400g **P28.00**/pkg
Bibingka Rice Cake Mix
250g **P34.95**/pkg

Monde
Bingo Cookie Sandwich, 10pcs
Peanut Butter, Vanilla, Orange, Double Choco 280g **P28.00**/pkg

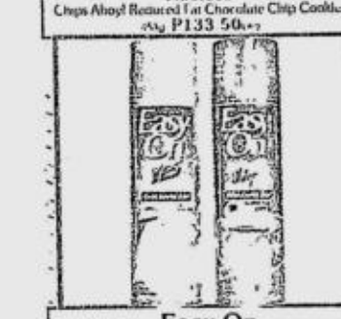
Nescafe
Classic Instant Coffee Refill
50g **P32.15**/pkg 25g **P16.25**/pkg
7gx84sticks **P133.90**/pkg

Cebu
Dried Mangoes
200g **P93.10**/pkg
100g **P47.00**/pkg

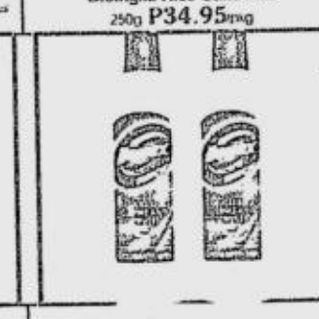
Quaker
Oatmeal Foil
Instant 800g **P101.50**/pkg
Quickcook 800g **P96.75**/pkg



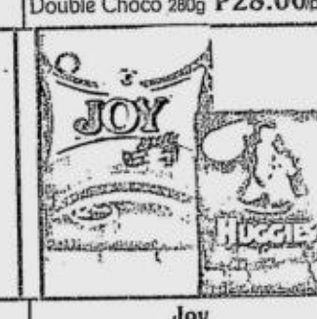
Jimm's
Coffee Mix
7in1, 21gx12sachets **P118.75**/pkg
4in1, 15gx12sachets **P71.75**/pkg
5in1, 21gx12sachets **P102.75**/pkg



Easy On
Double Starch Fresh Lemon Scent
523g **P58.75**/can
Speed Starch Crisp Linen
523g **P58.75**

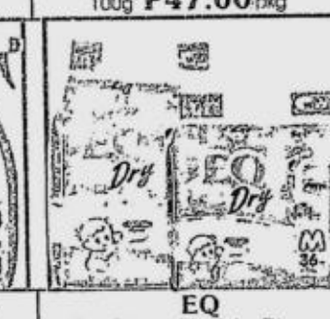


Domex
Thick All Around Cleaner Classic
500ml **P63.20**/bot



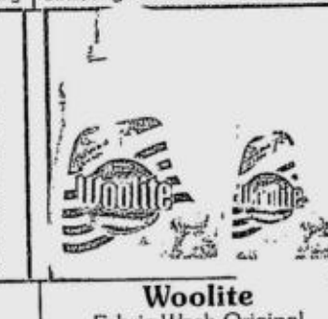
Joy
Extra Bathroom Tissue, 2 Ply
12rolls **P127.25**/pkg
Huggies
Diaper Dry Comfort XXLarge **P378.50**/pkg

Baygon
Multi Insect Killer KB 600ml **P222.50**/bot
Liquid Mosquito Repeller Starter
40ml **P172.95**/set
Mr. Muscle
Mold & Mildew Killer Regular 500ml **P94.75**/bot



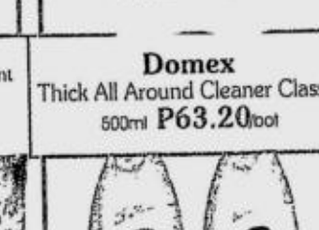
EQ
Dry Disposable Baby Diapers
Econopack
S-40's, M-36's, L-32's, XL-28's
P246.00/pkg

Mamy Poko
Baby Diapers
L-22's **P309.25**/pkg
XL-20's **P309.25**/pkg
XXL-16's **P328.75**/pkg

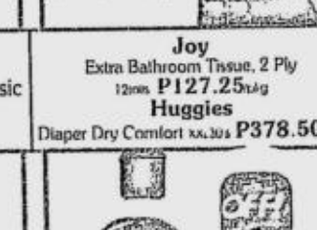


Woolite
Fabric Wash Original
1.48L **P377.50**/jug
2.2L **P471.50**/jug

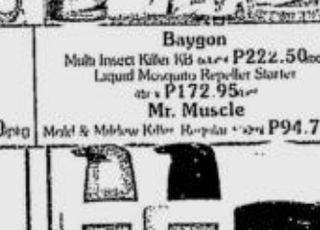
Tender Care
Honey Milk Baby Powder 100g **P23.25**/bot
Honey Milk Soap 125g **P20.00**/pcs
Axion
Dishwashing Liquid
Lemon Kalamansi 500ml **P26.85**/pkg



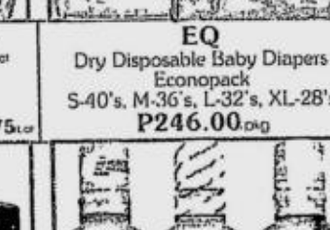
Sunsilk
Soft Touch Pink Shampoo
200ml **P76.25**/bot



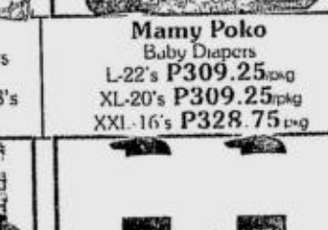
OFF!
Insect Repellent Lotion for Kids
100ml **P88.50**/bot
Overtime Insect Repellent Lotion
100ml **P110.50**/bot



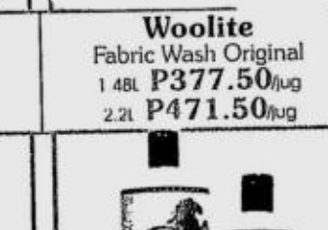
Nivea
Body Lotion
Intensive Milk, Triple Action, Caring Lotion 400ml
P189.25/bot



Astring-O-Sol
Freshmint Mouthwash 360ml **P204.25**/bot
Ice Extreme
Lemon/Lime Blast, Eucalyptus Rush
360ml **P283.75**/bot



Nivea
Whitening Milk Body Lotion
400ml **P255.00**/bot



Black Beauty
Shampoo w/ Conditioner
948ml **P559.50**/bot
356ml **P280.25**/bot
120ml **P85.45**/bot

Makati Supermart Alabang

Unimart

Cash&Carry Supermarket

INQUISAYAN

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Eairth-friendly

In rediscovering her roots, Melissa Dizon also unearthed a talent for designing clothes colored with indigenous seeds, barks and leaves

DESIGNER Melissa Dizon

By Alex Y. Vergara

MELISSA DIZON HAD IT all. As the design director for some of the biggest retail brands in the United States such as Victoria's Secret, Todd Oldham, Theory and Levi's, the Filipino-American fashion designer was at the top of her game when she felt the urge to find the "missing link" in her life.

Dizon found that component last year after crossing the big, blue Pacific Ocean and coming to the Philippines.

"This is where I came from," Dizon recalls herself gushing. "I've been all over the world, but I barely knew my country. I can't believe what I've been missing all these years."

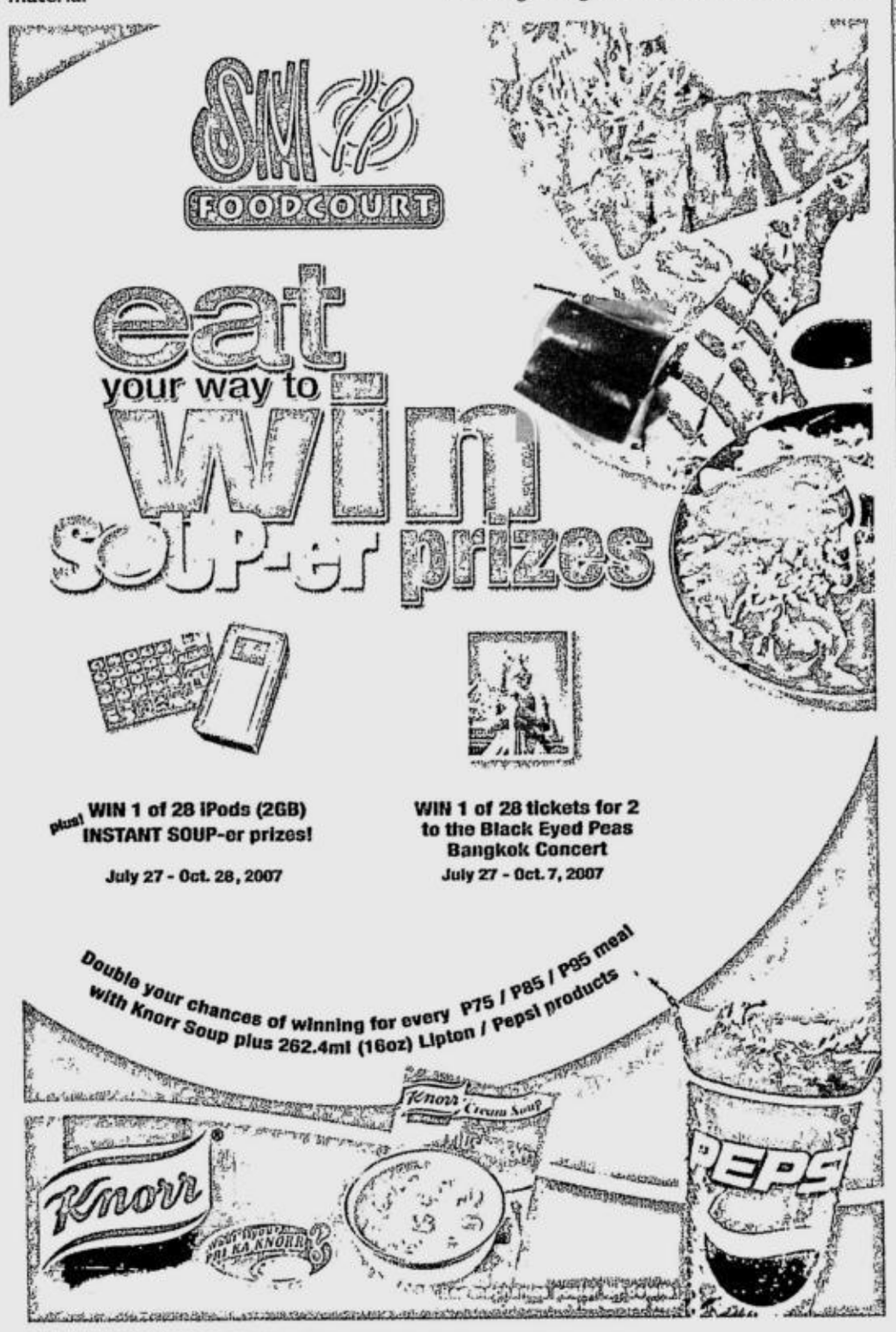
The result of her homecoming is a line of jeans and hand-knitted, cut, tucked, slashed, embroidered and often deconstructed tops, dresses and bags made primarily of cotton jersey.

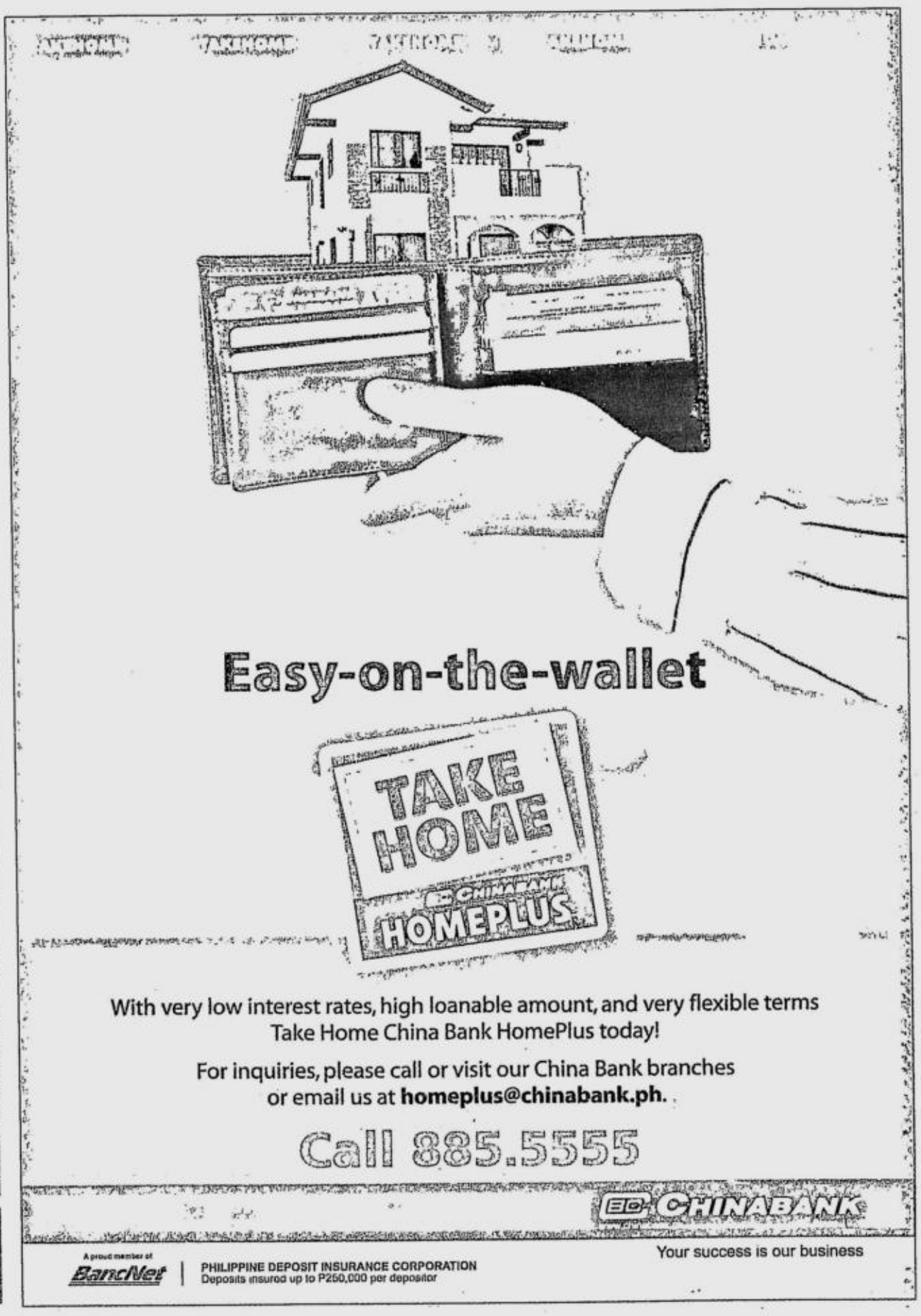
Aside from white, they come in the most natural colors derived from indigenous barks, seeds and leaves of such plants as *achuete*, *talisay* and turmeric, among other organic sources.

She's never been a green activist, but Dizon has had such a deep respect for the environment ever since she took up surfing. In

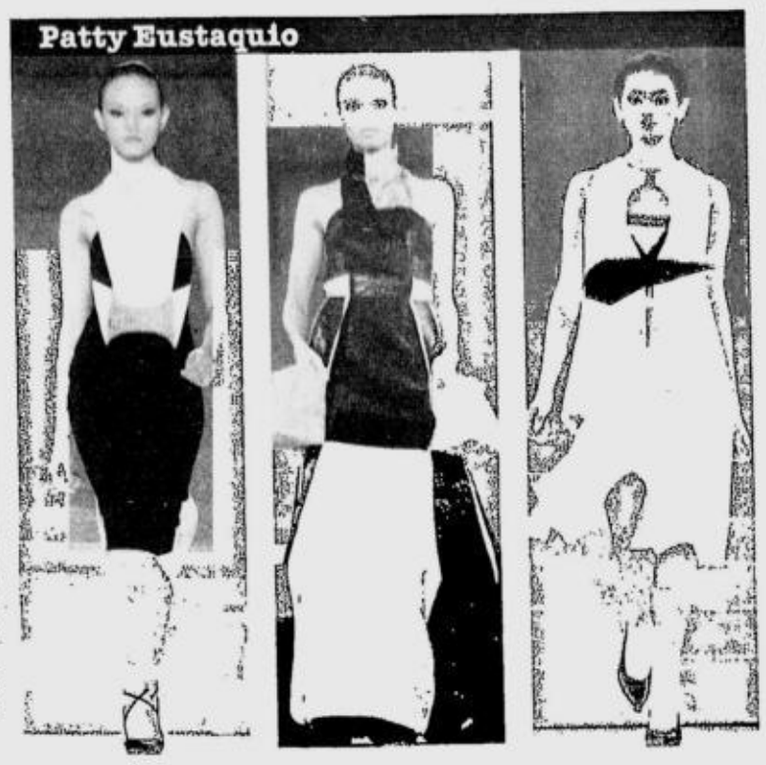
EAIRTH/ D3

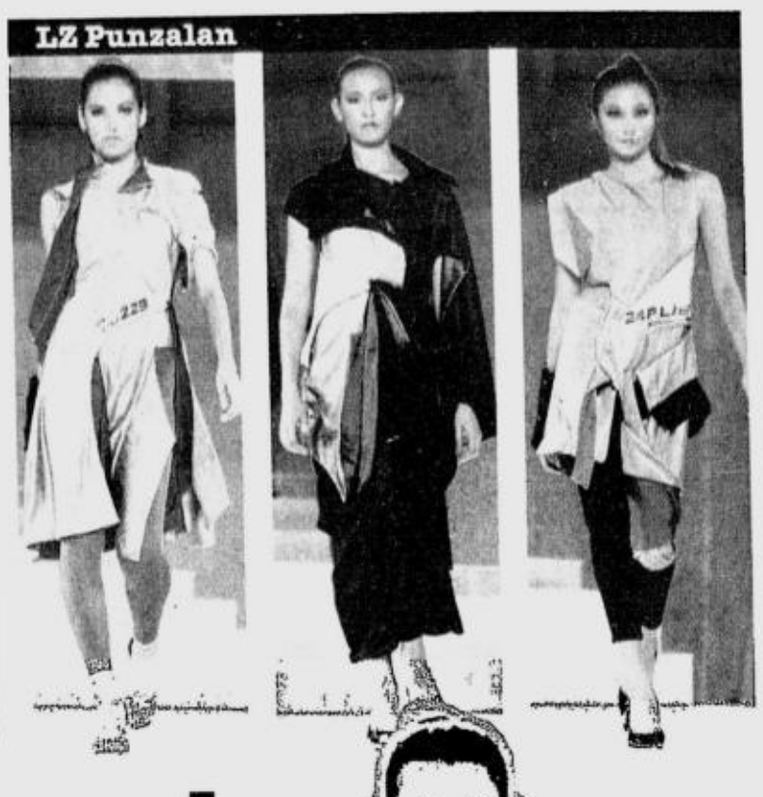
HAND-KNITTED mini in versatile T-shirt material





Ivarluski Aseron


Patty Eustaquio


LZ Punzalan

Presenting fashion's new guard

Metrowear's The Next Generation series featured the collections of 10 top local designers

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

METRO MAGAZINE HAS taken up the cudgels for Philippine fashion via its yearlong series of fashion shows called Samsung Metrowear. Local designers, whose works are thankfully worth seeing (more often than not, at least), now have a regular venue to showcase their talent and creativity.

The Next Generation, the third of this year's series, featured the collections of 10 designers, namely Ivarluski Aseron, Patty Eustaquio, Antonio Garcia, Wynn Wynn Ong, Protacio, LZ Punzalan, James Reyes, Joey Samson, Cary Santiago and Brian Tenorio.

Most of them showed a six to eight-piece collection built around muted colors like grey, black and white. Romina Urra, Metro Weddings editor-in-chief and the evening's host, said that the designers were also given the chance to "play and create couture," couture being the theme of the fashion show.

Strictly speaking, couture refers to pieces that are made by hand, relying solely on expert craftsmanship. It is also defined by the number of hours devoted to the execution of a particular piece. Sadly, the term is used rather loosely nowadays and can even refer to, as one of the participating designers stated, "something that's definitely not what you'll see as normally wearable."

Fortunately, most of the designers understood what the concept of couture was all about. A lot of skill and craftsmanship were obviously employed to create most of the pieces shown that evening.

Ong's jewelry were extra-special one-offs, some of which took more than a week to execute. Samson texturized his pieces by cording, which was done by hand. Aseron personally hand-painted fabric to come up with a degrade pattern.

Clear winner

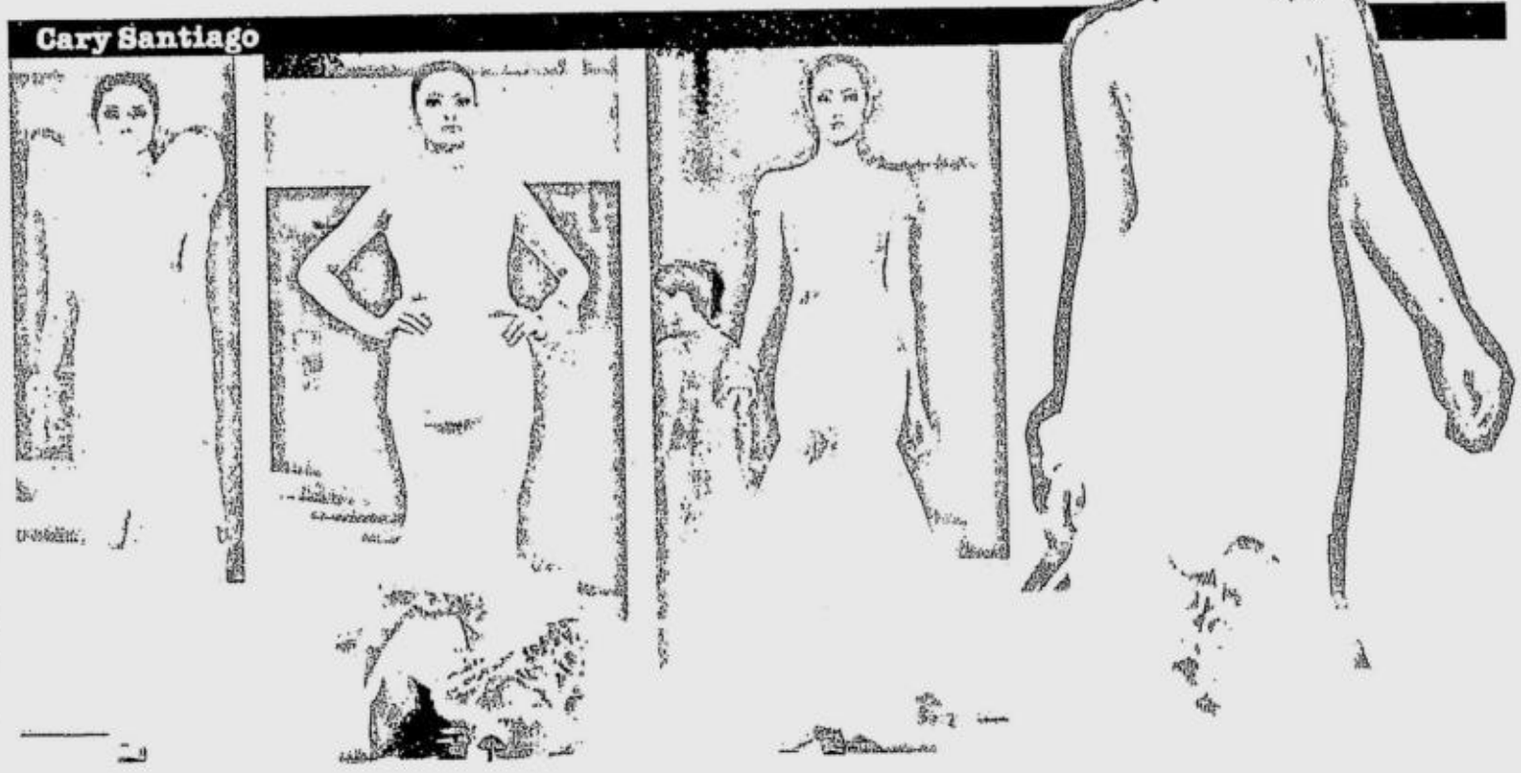
Speaking of Aseron, he was definitely one of the clear winners that evening. Known for his modern and structural designs, his collection was out-of-the-box but still very wearable. His dresses were accentuated with origami-like details that looked crisp and clean. And his use of white with graphic black accents served to create a cohesive collection that was easy on the eye.

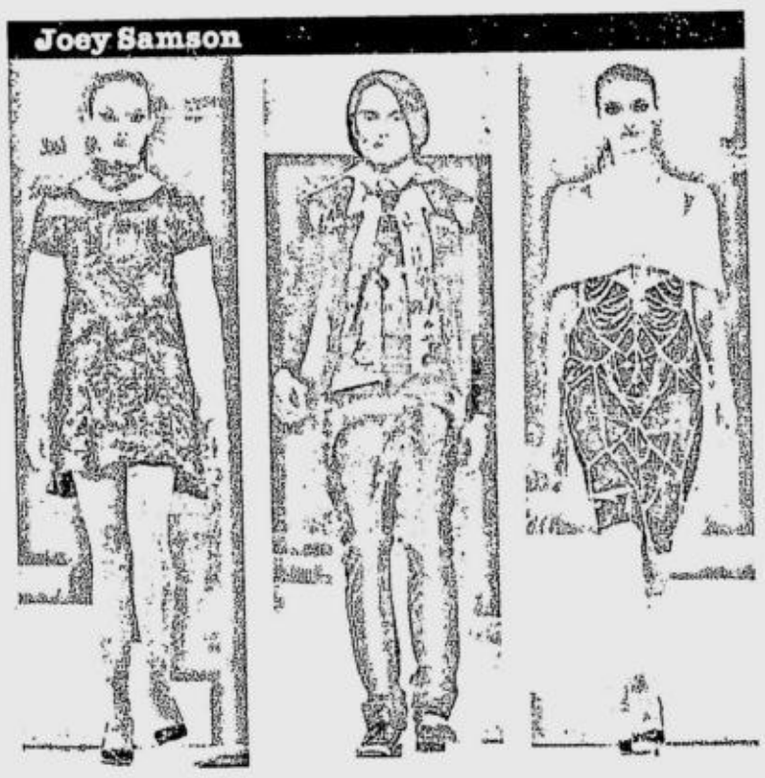
Although there were obvious differences in color themes and inspirations, a couple of other designers like Eustaquio and Punzalan came out with collections that seemed like variations of Aseron's. Eustaquio's feminine yet edgy deep plum, blue and neutral collection, for one, was a take-off from images of Japanese Robots, but with a softer feel.

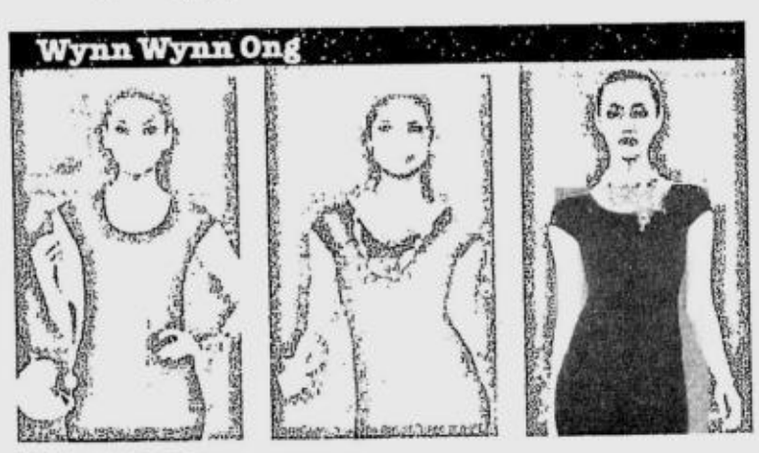
Punzalan, on the other hand, took inspiration from the word "speed" and his favorite car's engineering and aerodynamics, which he says were core foundations for his sporty yet luxurious collection.

These elements translated to his choice of patterns, fabric (leather and silk cross woven pattern), colors (Peruvian blue mixed with chrome) and embellishments like aluminum snap buttons and titanium alphanumerics.

Both Eustaquio and Punzalan's works were generally interesting and of good quality, although Eustaquio, at one point, featured one pop-out pocket too many. But maybe it didn't help that Aseron showed his collection first. The show actually dragged on after countless flaps and folds came down the runway.


Cary Santiago


Joey Samson


Wynn Wynn Ong

Protacio

Welcome change

It was a welcome change when designer Antonio Garcia showed his "Jang Mei" (Korean Rose) inspired collection. His backless, beribboned gold dress and finale gown of book leaf petals of organza sewn into separate panels were impressive and much applauded.

Some of his pieces, though, were too reminiscent of the '80s and the decade's over-the-top theatrics. He opened with sarong tied trousers and featured billowing opera coats that models dramatically whipped open as they walked down the ramp.

Meanwhile, designer Protacio's collection was a play of modern silhouettes and detailing in the form of hand quilting and embroidery inspired by Gustav Klimt's The Kiss. Although conceptualized well and expertly made when examined up close, it didn't create quite an impact on stage.

Inspired by priestly vestments, Samson showed a brilliant collection of deep, jewel-colored pieces that were characterized by texture done through cording. His non-literal translation veered away from the use of rich materials like brocade, but rather focused on the silhouette and detailing of the said vestments.

Reyes also used colors, albeit brighter ones, to present a witty, tongue-in-cheek, though not necessarily wearable, collection inspired by children's titles like Mary Poppins, Dr. Seuss, Alice in Wonderland, and Mother Goose.

Jewelry designer Ong presented a 48-piece ensemble of nature-inspired jewelry pieces and bags that were truly beautiful to behold—up close and personal, that is.

The same could be said with Brian Tenorio's shoe collection, which included feathered shoes, five-inch platforms and even see-through oxfords. Pity. There's much to appreciate about these designer's works but all that gorgeous detailing was lost on the runway.

Real star

The real star of the evening was Cebu-based Santiago, who previously worked in a Beirut fashion house. During his stint abroad, he worked with and learned different couture techniques from master craftsmen from Chanel, Balmain and the like.

As a result, all his pieces were hand-sewn and built on the mannequin. He never does flat patterns, except for corsets.

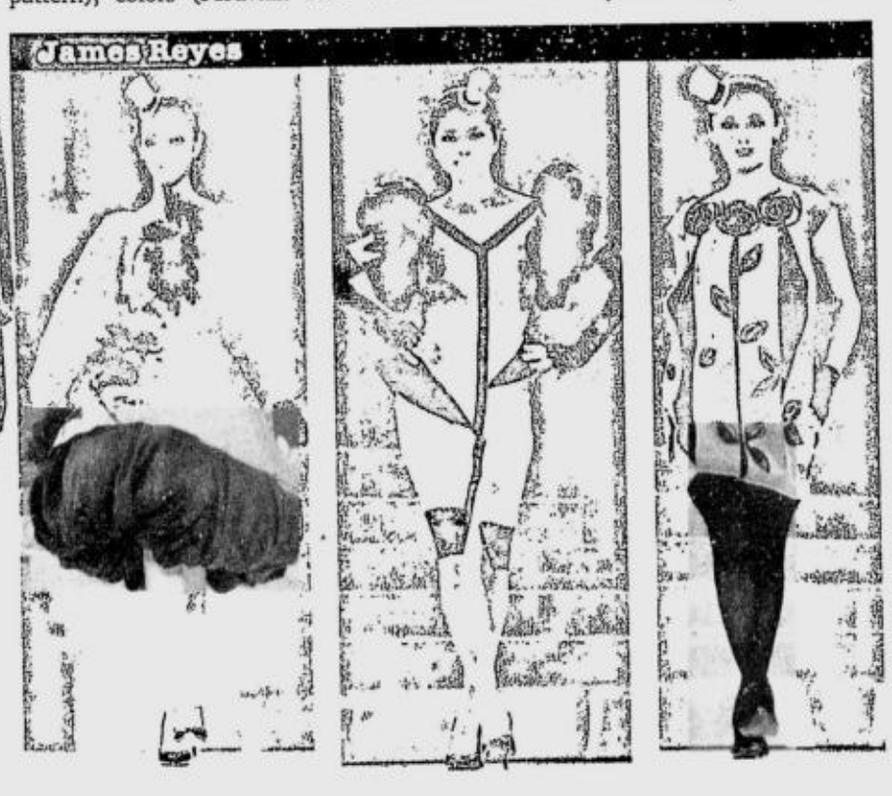
For Metrowear, he showed an exquisite collection of nude and pristine white gowns that used 30 meters of Marco Lagotolla couture tulle each. The fabric was painstakingly pleated (measured at 1 cm a pleat folded on top of the other!), and laser-cut.

It's certainly high time for Santiago to come up with a solo show and full collection. It will be exciting to see how he'll create spin-offs of his consistently jaw-dropping creations.

As the evening drew to a close, an industry insider commented that this list possibly comprises fashion's new guard. And although most of the participating designers were undoubtedly A-listers in the design field, there were some who still had quite a bit of fine-tuning and editing to do.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Brian Tenorio


James Reyes

Antonio Garcia

LAYERING over a tulle leotard

GREENISH hue from pillow/leaves

TOP is not crocheted but hand-knit from tee material

IT BAG made of leather

WHITE cotton

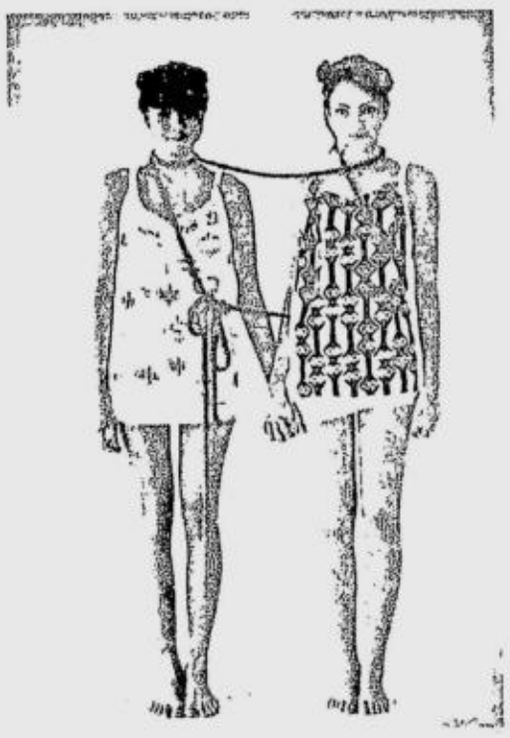
Eairth-friendly

Photography: Mark Villafuerte
Makeup: Omar Ibe, Shu Uemura
Hair: Felicity Son of Kiehl's Sylvia's Series
Models: Anna, Arlen and Jasmine
Clothes: Melissa Dizon, Eairth
(8907785 to 94 and 6971351)

COOL ensemble

GOLDEN tint

CASUAL couture



HAND-EMBROIDERED frocks

From page D1

keeping with her core beliefs and her new-found fascination, if not love, for her old country and its people, she has named her line Eairth.

Organic chic

"They're more organic chic than resort wear," she says. "You can wear them anywhere depending on how you put them together [with other pieces]. No two pieces are exactly identical."

Eairth, a combination of the elements earth and air, is exported to the US, Europe and Japan. In the US, the line is carried by Fred Segal and will also soon be available at Barney's and Neiman Marcus. A limited number of pieces and styles are locally available at Soumak home store in Greenbelt 3.

Dizon also shares a showroom that goes by the same name with her business partner and equally creative aunt, Yola Johnson, in Makati (Bormaheco Building, Zapote Street corner Metropolitan Avenue). Apart from being instrumental in Dizon's "conversion," Johnson is also famous for propagating natural fiber products.

Like her aunt, Dizon also derives joy from giving jobs and recognizing the talents of Filipino artisans. Her team includes a couple of women who execute her ideas as well as infuse their own. She has separate coloring (dyeing, she insists, isn't the right term) and sewing teams, as well as a a group of embroiderers from Laguna.

Self-discovery

"There was a time I was head designer of Victoria's Secret's mass-market line called Express," says the dusky Dizon, who immigrated to New York with her family when she was barely 9. "The responsibilities were huge as 1,200 stores in the US were involved with total annual net sales amounting to $50 million."

Although not as big in its scope, her brief stint at Levi's a few years later allowed her the much-needed elbowroom to pioneer women's 501 and Green Tab jeans. Not bad for someone who chose not to finish her formal education.

Indeed, the minute she dropped out of Parson's in disgust after getting an F in draping, Dizon seemed to have been destined to play second fiddle to no one in every designing job she took.

Dizon's six-year stint as head designer for Todd Oldham, a newly established denim brand in the early 1990s, launched her designing career as well as her love affair with jeans. From there, she moved to Theory where she designed women's pants and tops. For a time, she was also the design director of BCBG.

When life in the Big Apple became too stressful, she packed her bags and moved with her son to Los Angeles. "I took a year off and learned how to surf until I was offered my dream job at Levi's in San Francisco," she says.

Restless

It took less than a year, however, for Dizon to feel restless again. After enrolling her son in a boarding school in California, she resigned from Levi's and shipped all her stuff back to New York. Still, she couldn't bring herself to return to the rat race in Manhattan.

She called Johnson in Manila and asked if she could stay here for a few weeks as she tried to sort her life out. Prior to this trip, Dizon had visited the Philippines only once, on a side trip while on a business trip in Hong Kong.

This time, the two women went on a road trip to such places as Isabela, Pagudpud, Vigan and Baler. Dizon also went to Surigao to surf.

"I brought plenty of bikinis, but we didn't bring that many clothes," she recalls with a laugh. "We had to buy cheap white T-shirts that I cut and tried to personalize. It was so much fun."

Since the country was teeming with all sorts of inspirations that were totally new to her, Dizon decided to mine them as she launched Eairth last year.

"I've always loved fashion no matter how much I wanted to avoid it," she says. "I live it every day. And my surfing has brought me to new set of aesthetics that I hope is evident in my clothes."

ORGANIC chic in the form of a dress, top, overlay and bag

CAP sleeves and huge pockets

HALTER dress with uneven color

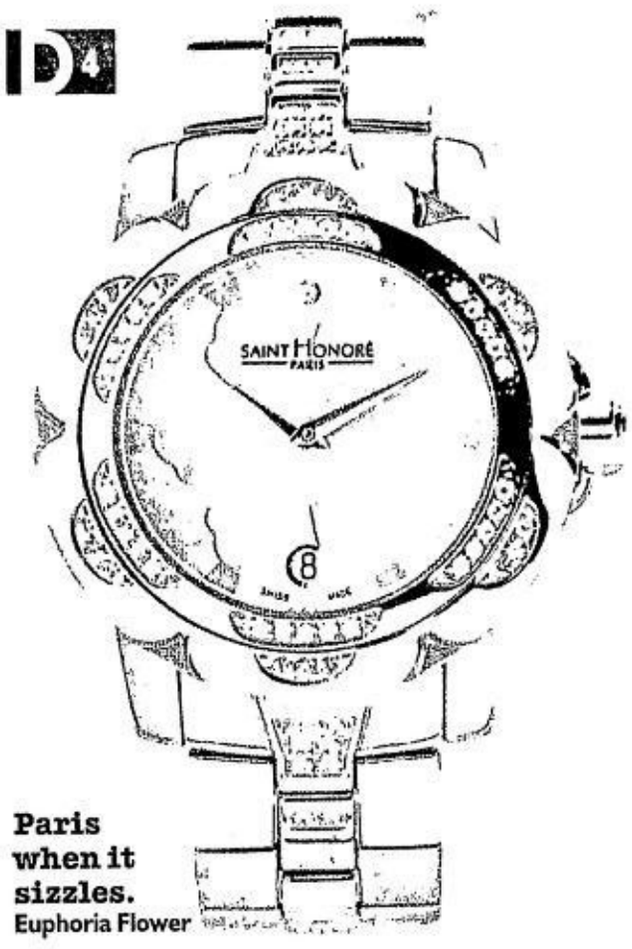
SLASH artist

HAND-PAINTED

EMBROIDERED tee

CLOTHES are body-friendly, too

Time will tell



Paris when it sizzles.
Euphoria Flower

WHO DOESN'T LOVE PARIS when it sizzles? (And I'm referring to the original Paris, of course!)

The City of Lights is the center of gravity for all things chic. It's the capital of haute couture, high art, architecture and romance. Its indisputable beauty moved Oscar Wilde to say that when good people die, they go to Paris.

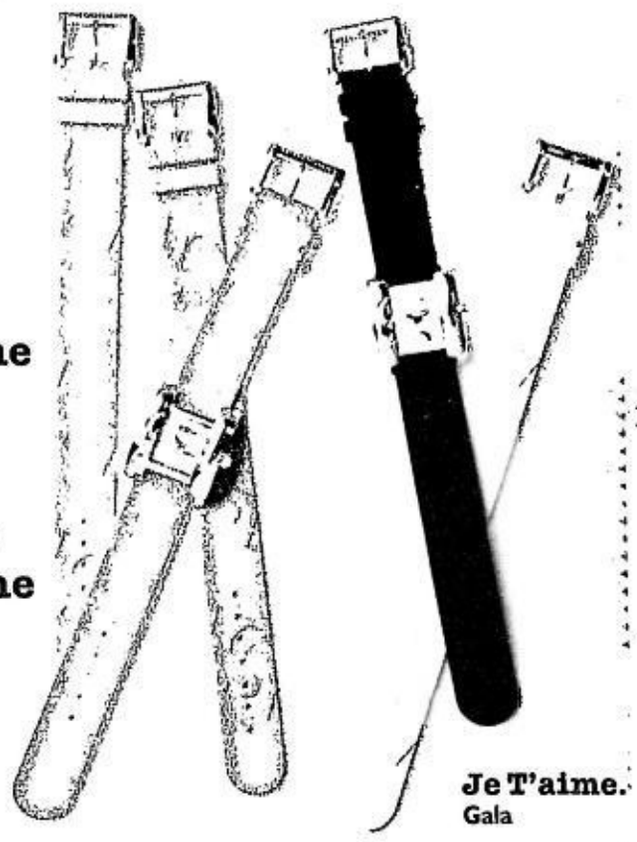
If that is so, then I say all the good fusionists go to Rue Saint Honoré.

Rue Saint Honoré is one of Paris' legendary addresses, a street that has become synonymous with Parisian style and French art de vivre. It is home to the world's great jewellers and watchmakers.

It is also the name of a watch collection that reflects impeccable French elegance and luxury. Rue Saint Honoré is known the world over for its beautiful craftsmanship, exceptional watch-making expertise, high quality materials and bold finishes.

Jenni Epperson

Rue Saint Honoré is not only one of Paris' legendary addresses, it is also the name of a premiere watch collection



Je T'aime.
Gala

The collection offers six key product models, each conveying its own distinct character, from chic to glamorous, trendy to avant-garde—all meant to represent the multiple facets of a woman's character.

The latest in the Saint Honoré range is the Euphoria line, a feminine, elegant and humorous timepiece marked by playful designs of flower, sun, sea and love on a rotating bezel. What makes it a masterpiece is its intricate and masterful construction using diamonds and topaz stones.

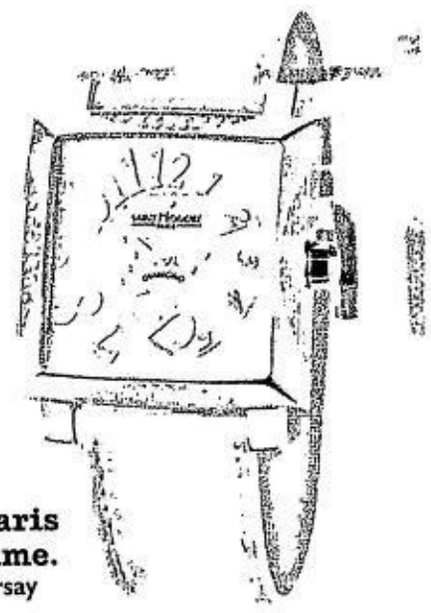
Other dazzling timepieces from the collection include the Gala, with its gold plated case and oversized diamond-set numerals extending beyond the dial. It comes with three interchangeable straps: mock croc leather, sleek leather or rubber.

There's also the Orsay Carrée Medium—wonderfully chic with its monogram that rotates like a Tourbillon. It takes its inspiration directly from Saint Honoré's haute couture range.

The Monceau line, named after the famous district of Paris, comes in a seductive barrel shape with creative settings that are both audacious and classic.

The globally renowned collection is now available in Rustan's and at Montre Watch Shop.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

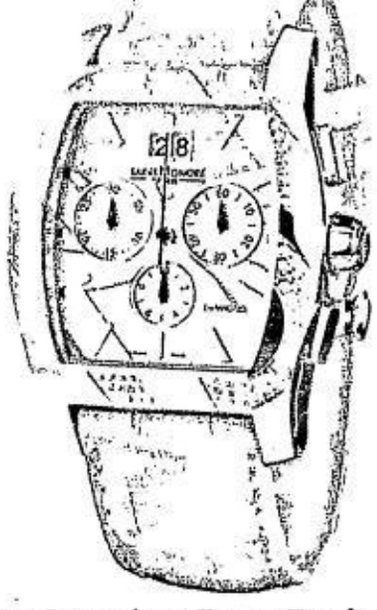


Paris time.
Orsay

Caring for your watch

Treat your watch as a fine piece of jewelry and not just a gadget that tells time. A few tips for its upkeep:

- Make sure you fill the warranty, and keep its instructions in a safe place in case you need them in the future.
- To keep your watch running smoothly, have it professionally serviced every two years. Periodic cleaning and proper care will also ensure that your timepiece looks its best any time and gives years of faithful service.
- If the watch is not water-resistant, clean the bracelet and casing using a toothpick, then a soft, lint-free cloth.
- For water-resistant watches, use warm water and mild soap to clean the casing. Proceed with caution!
- Lastly, keep your watch in its case when you're not using it.



The last time I saw Paris.
Monceau

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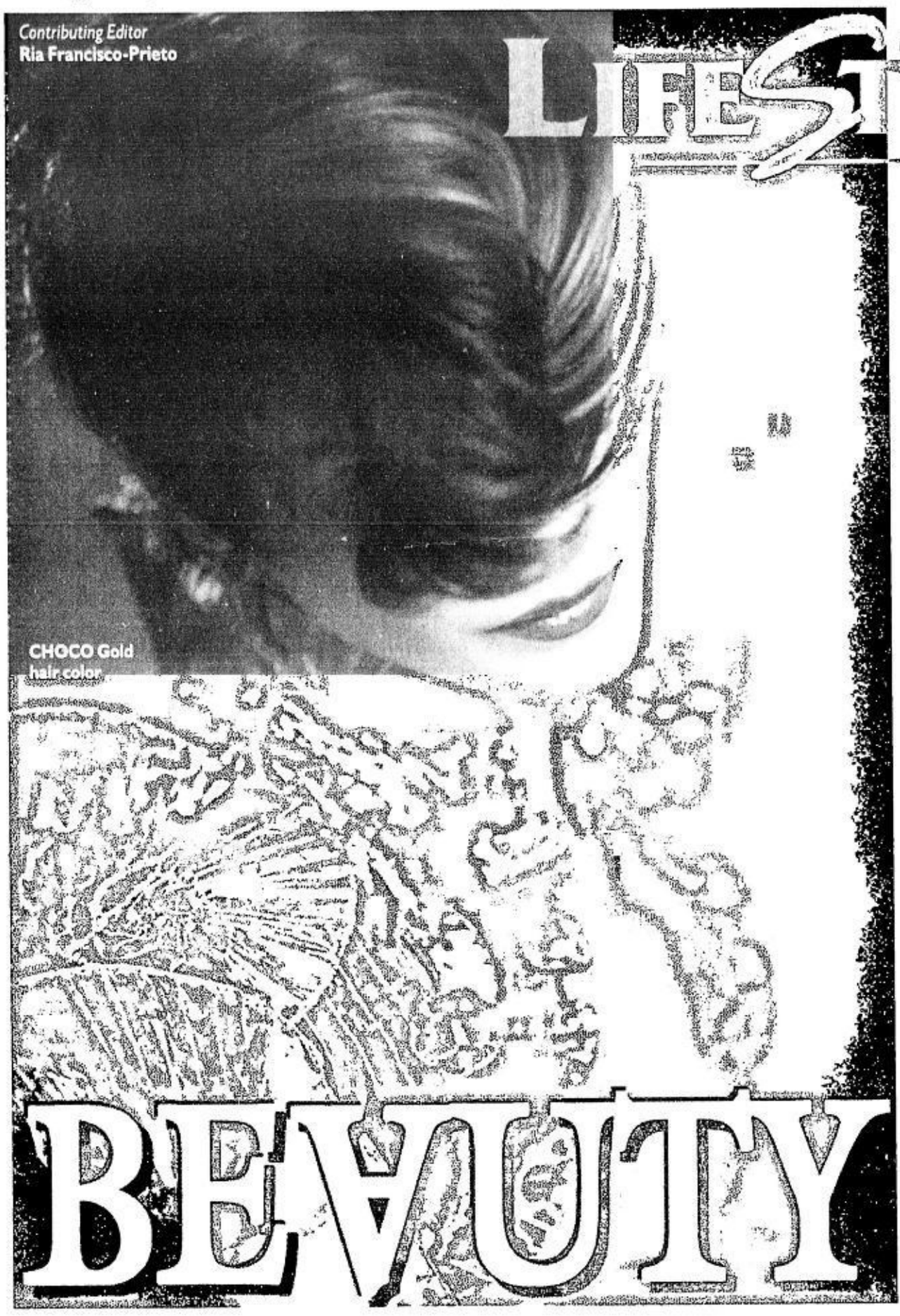


CHOCO Gold hair color

BEAUTY

Cashing in on beauty

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Do-it-yourself is the answer these days

EVERYBODY needs a break, and it doesn't have to entail blowing cash.

Most inexpensive beauty treats actually put a smile on my face. We all need to learn how to economize wherever we can so we can have the cash for all the things we need and want.

For me, having a beauty treatment is like maintaining a relationship. You can't have it all unless you learn how to compromise. For example, if you have P2,000 and want to color your hair, what do you do?

A. You may want to go to your favorite salon and get that color, but because of your limited budget you won't get the much-needed after-treatment.

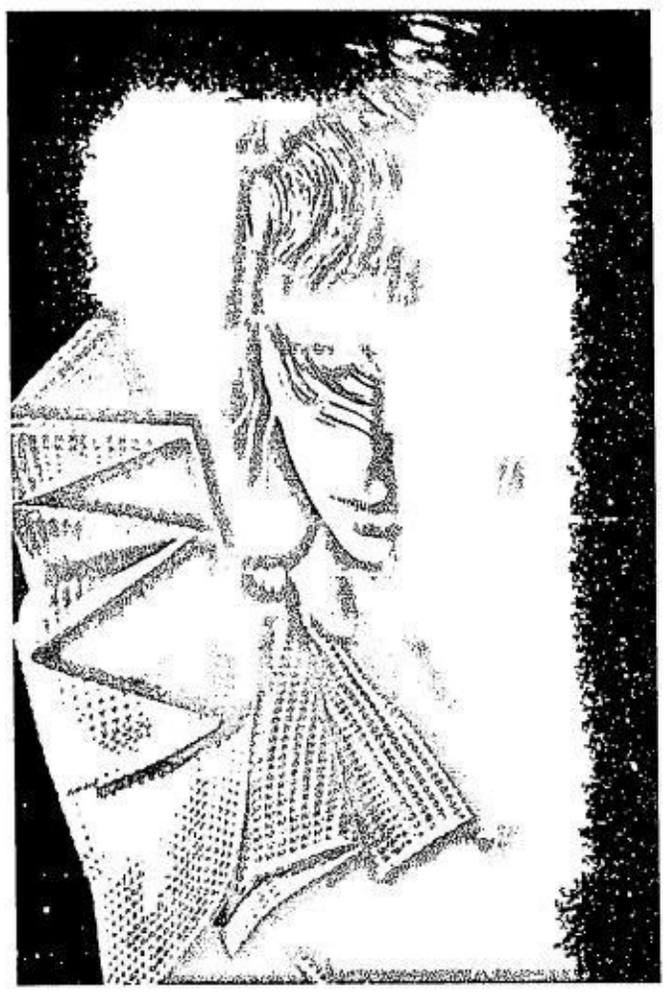
B. You can buy a box of a home coloring kit, then go to a salon for your hot oil after.

The latter is the better choice, if you ask me. In fact, doing both at home would be much better. Believe me, it's not only inexpensive but also smart. You can have all the hot oil treatments you want when you feel that your hair needs it.

You can even create your own ambiance. Pop in a CD and spray your room with your favorite scent. Everything then becomes

CASHING IN/ E4

CHOCO Caramel hair color



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24 Aug	Team Global Fireworks Display
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30 Aug	Day 4 Competition: Team Japan
	Golden Countdown
31 Aug	Team Global Fireworks Display
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BABY BLUES

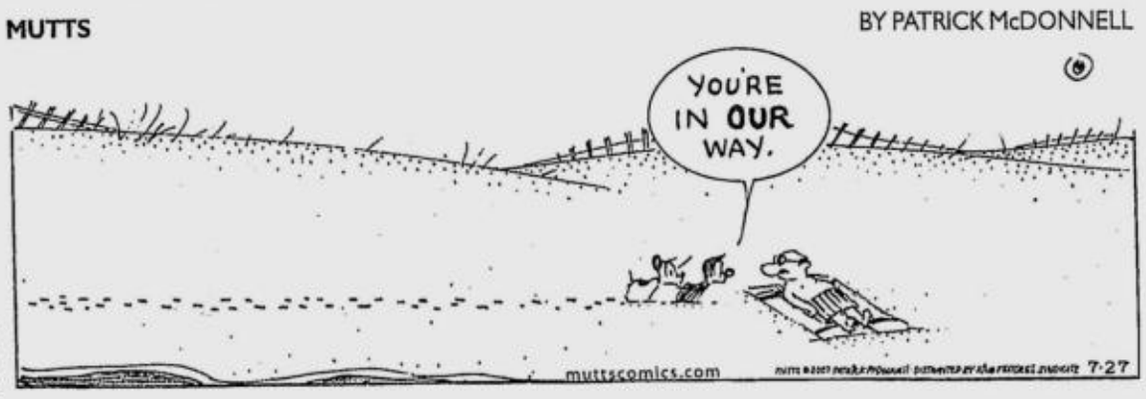
BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE

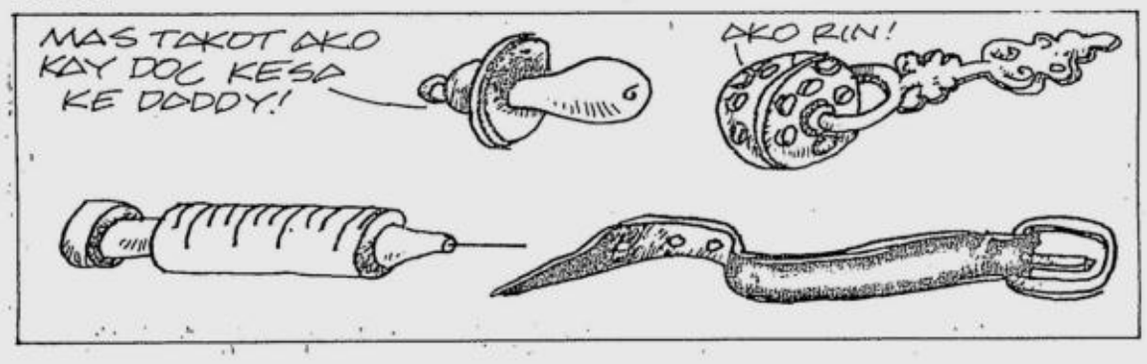
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



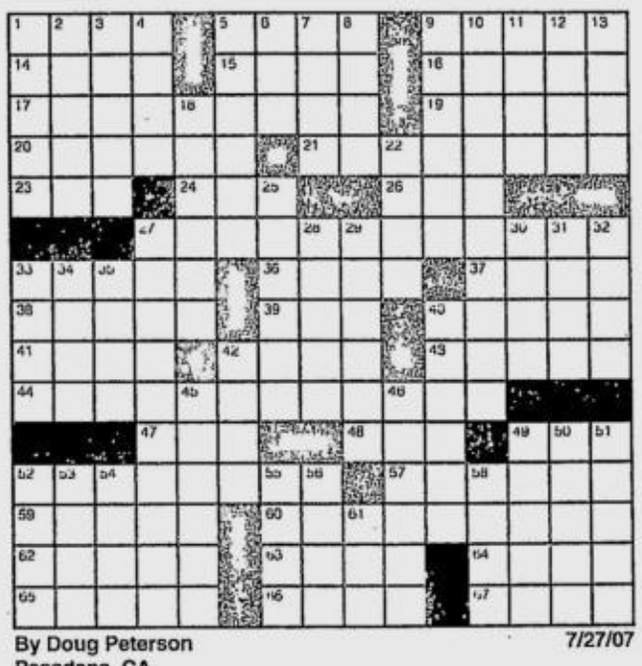
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Jab deliverer
5 Jug chug
9 "Barnaby Jones" star
14 Crazy about
15 Rum mixer
16 Israel's Meir
17 Penniless
19 Thick and sticky
20 Washington port
21 Unmotivated types
23 Major rd.
24 Rationers of WWII
26 Cow's chew
27 Cool, calm and collected
33 Dwight's opponent, twice
36 Cows of yore
37 Graph or harp starter
38 Purchase alternative
39 Act the straggler
40 Razzle-dazzle
41 Strike repeatedly
42 Llama land
43 Actress Taylor
44 Sliver-tongued one
47 Memo acronym
48 Love-handles makeup
49 Health club
52 Cathedral toppers
57 Harvest machine
59 Supermodel Klum
60 Utmost effort
62 Lots of land
63 Dummy's perch
64 Downs a hero
65 Flemish capital
66 Stern's opposite
67 Brad Pitt movie

DOWN
1 Liquor buy
2 Spouse's sibling
3 Actor Keach
4 Pooch in Oz
5 Abrade
6 Try to win over
7 Varieties
8 Highland Scot
9 Item on a breakfast table
10 Vendor of volumes
11 Gin flavoring
12 Fulda tributary
13 Contrary votes
18 Sub-par flick
22 Pinnacle
25 Short sock
27 Steinbeck novel
28 Jeweled headpiece
29 Swallow up
30 Downfall
31 Kitchen suffix
32 Catch forty winks
33 "The Sound of Music" setting
34 Consider
35 Composer Schifrin
40 Fairy-tale girl
42 Niekro or Rizzuto
45 Data-entry pro
46 Hoops legend Abdul-Jabbar
49 Flung weapon
50 Green sauce
51 Pretentious
52 Carpet type
53 Software support
54 Ireland alias
55 B.P.O.E. word
56 In the mail
58 Help with wrongdoing
61 Gaggle formation



By Doug Peterson
Pasadena, CA
7/27/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

V	A	L		G	A	I	T	S		S	C	A	M	P
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7/27/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're strong, forceful and orderly. You understand the dynamics of organizational structures, timetables and the interactions of personnel. You're decisive and often involved in making decisions for others. However, even though you excel at serving and organizing others, you hesitate when making decisions for yourself. You need courage to follow your heart! Study and learn this year, because next year is powerful!
Birthdate of: Bharati Mukherjee, author; Alex Rodriguez, baseball player; Leo "The Lip" Durocher, baseball manager.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Some sweet plans you have made at work might be delayed or might start to slow down now. This is an opportunity to tweak or iron out any problems that might exist.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Some of you will encounter old love in the next six weeks. Past issues related to the arts, sports and children are also things you might encounter.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): During the next six weeks, you can finish old projects related to redecorating where you live. Family issues can also be resolved.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Previous arrangements or negotiations might need to be rehashed in the next month. Something having to do with siblings and relatives could also be stalled.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Past matters related to how you earn your money are back on your plate again. The next six weeks are an excellent time to wrap up these things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Some ideas you've had about improving your appearance or buying something to wear need to be addressed again. If it was a good idea once, why not reconsider it?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Matters related to the government or working behind the scenes might be stalled in the next few weeks. On the other hand, this is an excellent time to finish up this sort of thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Enjoy relationships with old friends. People from the past are back in your life again. Turn this into a positive, enjoyable learning experience

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The next six weeks are a wonderful time to deal with parents, bosses and authority figures. Others will listen to your suggestions that were once cast aside. (Go figure.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Travel plans or matters related to publishing, the media and education could be stalled in the water. Don't be discouraged. This gives you a chance to improve something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Now you can wrap up old details with inheritances, wills, taxes, debt and the wealth of others. Everything will go quite swiftly. (Thank goodness!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Discussions with partners about old matters will be surprisingly well-received and harmonious. People are willing to discuss past events and how they can best be handled now.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		2		9		3		
		6				2		
			5		1			
	7		1		8		9	
				3				
	8		7		6		1	
			2		7			
		9				7		
		4		1		5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/27

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	3	8	9	4	5	7	2	1
2	1	5	7	6	8	9	3	4
9	7	4	1	2	3	6	8	5
3	9	2	6	5	1	8	4	7
1	5	7	4	8	2	3	9	6
4	8	6	3	7	9	1	5	2
8	4	9	5	1	7	2	6	3
7	6	3	2	9	4	5	1	8
5	2	1	8	3	6	4	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

GOINGS ON

Moms and babies fair

MOM AND BABIES FAIR. GET BIG BARgains on maternity and baby needs until July 30 in Sta. Lucia East Department Store's (SLEDS) annual Mommy & Baby Fair. You can also win prizes in the Baby Lucky Roulette with a minimum P300 purchase of maternity and baby products. SLEDS and Planet Toys are also holding the annual Toy Fair until July 31. You may be one of six lucky shoppers to win a prize courtesy of Kids Gallery Corp. A P500 receipt gets you one raffle coupon. Grand draw is on Aug. 3.

CLASS REUNION. All is set for the golden guys, girls and gays in '07 of the Paco Catholic School Class '74 to be held 9 a.m., July 28, at Village East Pool Resort, Cainta, Rizal. The resort is owned by classmate Henry Selecious. To be honored are classmates who are turning "gold" this year. Accel will provide official event T-shirts. San Miguel Beer and Unilever are donating giveaways and prizes. Tsoko.Nut Batirol is official caterer. Call 8943576, 0918-9217160, 8138807 or 0927-4977353.

PIZZA-MAKING CLASS. Learn about crusts and toppings in Maya Kitchen's Pizza, 2-6 p.m., July 28. If you want to learn how to prepare and serve all types of beverages, the class on Bartending, will be held 2-6 p.m., July 28. The Fundamentals of Bakery Production, will be taught 9 a.m.-1 p.m., July 31-Aug. 3. Cake Decorating will be offered 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 2-3. Maya Kitchen is at 8/F, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

CLAN REUNION. THE Albert Clan Reunion 2007 will be held July 29 at the Forbes Park Pavilion in Makati. This was announced by Monchet Albert, steering committee chair. Singer Joey Albert, who is back from Vancouver, Canada, will co-emcee the affair and also perform. Registration starts at 2 p.m. A Mass follows at 3 p.m. then fellowship and snacks until 3:45 p.m. The main event will be the Search for the New Albert Idol which begins at 5 p.m. The 2007 Albert Clan reunion is expected to showcase talents and achievements of Alberts.

ZONTA MEETING. Gender development will be discussed by prominent Southeast Asian women in business, politics and the sciences during the Zonta Club's 1st Inter-Conference of Districts 17 and 31, Sept. 13-16, at Fort Ilocandia, Laoag. Delegates from Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and the Philippines will attend. Purisima A. Bueno of Zonta Laoag said this year's theme was "Living Together, Growing Together with Zonta." Zonta governor Virma Vergel de Dios of Manila is working with at least 25 subcommittees to ensure a successful conference. Zontians of Districts 17 and 31 who register on or before July 30 can avail of the pre-registration fee of $250.

SPECIAL TREAT. Le Froge, the T-shirt brand that was recognized as the Boys Teens Apparel of the Year by Philippine Fashion Awards 2006, treats buyers to a limited-edition Mark Bautista CD for every two regular purchase of Le Froge items until July 31 in SM department stores nationwide. The CD includes remakes of Mark's favorite '80s hits such as "Break It To Me Gently," "Got to Let You Know," "Hold On," "It's All Behind Us Now" and "Kasalanan Ko Ba?"

FREE PHOTO SEMINAR. Photographer George Tapan will conduct a free photo seminar on Aug. 2, 2 -5 p.m., at SM Davao's Entertainment Center. Meanwhile, deadline for the the "First Philippine Airlines Photo Contest" is on Sept. 29. Visit www.palphotocontest.com.

PHOTO EVENT. Photo Summit 2007 will be held Aug. 16-19 at the Virra Mall Shopping Mall and Club Filipino in San Juan City. Call 5247576, 5280371 and 5255792.

PHOTO COURSES. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, Inc. holds basic and advanced photography courses starting Aug. 16. Call 5247576, 5280371 or 5255792.

GRAND REUNION. Notre Dame of Jolo classes 1957-1986 will hold a grand reunion on Sept. 9 in Zamboanga City. Text 0921-4202559.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines and CHILD Foundation Inc. will hold its 2007 postgraduate course "Subspecialty Alerts in General Pediatrics" on Sept. 12-13, at the Century Park Hotel. The course aims to give pediatricians and general practitioners basic management skills for childhood diseases. Call 5240892 or 5218450 locals 2101 or 2107.

FREE HANDSETS. Sun Cellular is giving free handsets to postpaid subscribers with Plan 350, Group Plans 999 and Fixed Load Plan 350. The network is offering the Sony Ericsson K310i handset for free at Plan 350. It is also available for Sun Group Plans 999 and Fixed Load Plan 350. Sony Ericsson K310i's features include a VGA camera, infrared and MP3 Player. It is GPRS and WAP capable, and has a USB port. Visit www.suncellular.com.ph or call 3958000.

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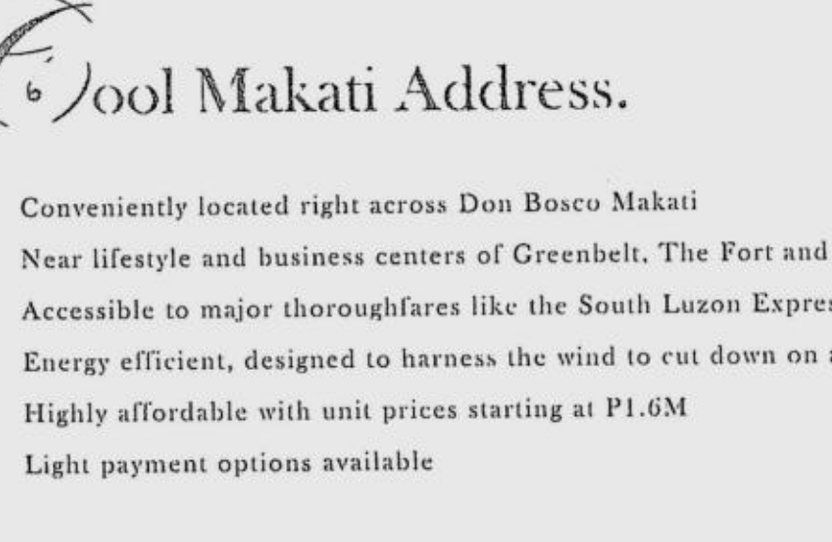

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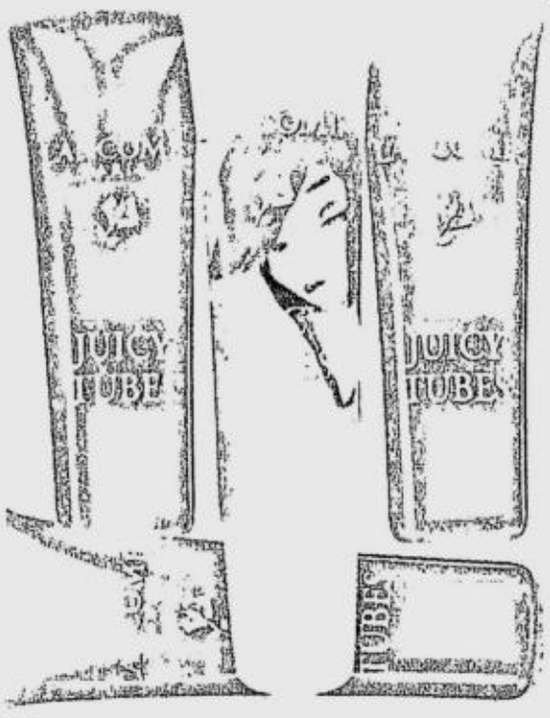
The affluent don't think twice about buying them by the dozen (at P1,250 a piece) to give out as gifts or to shove into every bag and cosmetic kit as a backup, while students and middle-income women save up for them.

Lancome has come up with 11 new shades with matching flavors, scents and pop music-inspired names called Juicy Tubes Tunes. I got 93 Toffee R&B, a bronze shade with gold shimmer.

The accompanying gift for the purchase is a lip gloss holder that comes in five colors matching the five best-selling shades: Grape, Marshmallow Electro pale pink, Toffee R&B yellow gold, Disco Melon and Strawberry Funk.

Those who want more pigment and less shine in their gloss without sacrificing hydration should try the Juicy Glace Icy Creamy Lip Gloss Repairing and Plumping Effect from the summer collection, which is like sheer lipstick in a squeeze tube, but with more color.

For your Angelina Jolie-like lip fix, try the 08 Beige Letea, which tastes and smells like minty coconut. Other must-try shades are Chocolat Chumbawa and Orange Barbade.



For a sheer wash of color or a sexy shine for your lips, try Lancome's Juicy Tubes

Traditional

To this day, there are traditionalists, regardless of financial status, who have such phobia of hospitals or are so turned off by prescription drugs that they still seek out age-old treatments taught to them by grandparents who, in turn, got them from their ancestors.

Remember the *hilot* article I wrote a few weeks ago? The response was so overwhelming that Yen, philosophy salon's official mistress of *hilot*, could not keep up with the demand and had to refuse appointment requests. Salon owner Mikaela Bilbao took action by recruiting an actual *kumadrona* for authentic *hilot* services from the haciendas of Negros.

Manang Loleng, with 30 years of experience, is over 50 and has never strayed far from her hometown. Her trip to Manila was her first time ever to ride a plane. In Negros, she is in demand for such services we city folk would normally turn to a professional for: chiropractor, physical therapist, sports doctor, pain expert and gynecologist.

Yup, covered by her non-hospital treatments are muscle and back pains, headaches, fractures, sprains and, believe it or not, infant deliveries. Europeans are surprisingly interested in such services and inquire about them in many local spas. Now, Yen and Leah can serve you better with Manang Loleng on board. Call 8187469 or 8921574.

Embellished flip-flops

Serves me right for buying imitation embellished flip-flops and wedge thong sandals. They might have come at a tenth of the price of the original brand, but those crystals which I found so beautiful skinned my feet raw during a mall walkathon.

I ended up with two V-shaped scars that started out red then turned purplish brown over time. They would not go away despite all the whitening body lotions I rubbed on. After eight months of frustration, I knew I needed something with medical strength.

Blooming Skin and Surgical Clinic sent me a whitening serum and lotion #2, which cost P350 each. After a shower, I applied the serum on my scars then topped with the whitening lotion. The area dried up, peeled and lightened. After two weeks, the areas turned light brown at the center and pale beige at the ends. They continue to fade up to this day.

Tip: The lotion and serum are actually meant for the face, but I used them on my scars, elbows and nape instead. The numbers of the lotion correspond to strength: 1 being the gentlest, and best for those with very sensitive skin or who cannot afford to be seen peeling; 2 gives a light refined peel for mild to moderate skin discoloration; and 3, which is the strongest potion, giving the fastest results but with aggressive peeling for a week or two designed to remove serious scars and pigmentation.

A sunblock with SPF 60 is required daily in the daytime. Call Blooming at 3765433 or 4141659.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

Cashing in on beauty

From page E1

more personal and private.

When I saw the new fall colors of L'Oreal Professional, I said to myself, wow, how timely! They're affordable and exactly the right products for do-it-yourself beautifying at home. The financial scandals surfacing everywhere tell us that we need a break. We don't want to feel like we are wasting money.

So do-it-yourself is the answer these days. Don't drop your beauty routine entirely, just alter it in some ways so you end up choosing and spending wisely.

Home massages, too, have become widely available these days. Imagine, for P250 you get one in the comfort of your home. It's cheaper (no gas needed to drive over to the spa) and you can even turn it into a girls' bonding session.

I have friends who arrange such sessions, and they've been some of the most enjoyable occasions I've been to recently.

Not having a lot of cash should not put a strain on your beauty routines. Just look for ways to work with what you have.

E-mail the author at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

CHOCO Cherry

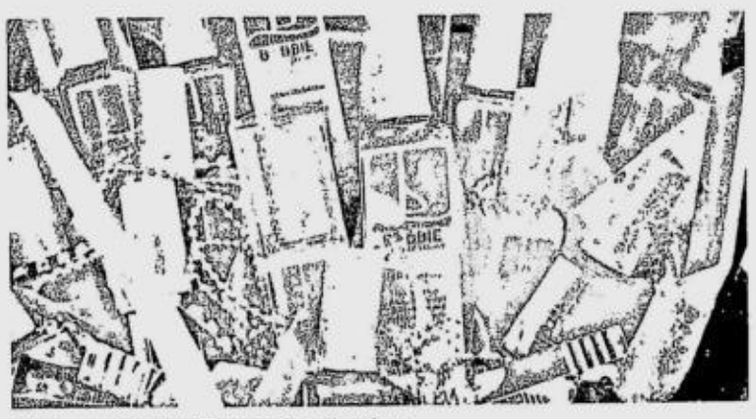
New nail-care line

THE NEW BOBBIE DIAMOND Collection offers the most complete line of nail-care products in the industry. It boasts of the three Cs of nail-care essentials: Color (polish), Care (tools) and Cure (treatments).

The products not only give instant beauty but also infuses nails with protein and vitamin-enriched ingredients to nourish them and make them stronger and healthier. And because they come from Bobbie Nail Cosmetics, an industry leader for over 20 years, you are assured of world-class quality at very affordable prices.

The Diamond Collection consists of four sets of nail-care system: color, treatment, aid and tool.

Bobbie Diamond Colors not only give sleek and luscious coverage to nails, but also diamond-like strength through its main component, keratin. Choose from among 12 fashionable color variants: 4C, Engagement, Princess Cut, Heirloom, Forever, Dazzle, Glitter Glam, Marquise, Her Best Friend, Icy White, Rhinestone and Solitaire.



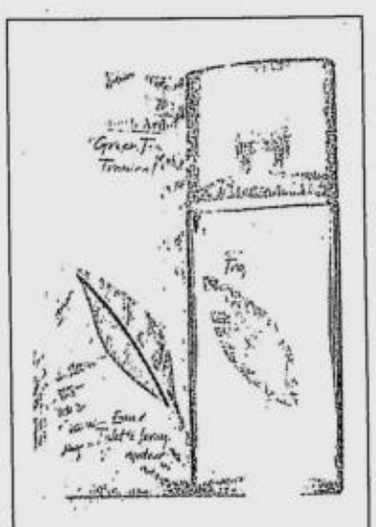
THE new Bobbie Diamond collection

Bobbie Diamond Treatments, on the other hand, are a new array of after-polish care that ensures the nails' health and vitality. The line consists of specially formulated products, namely, Fortifying Oil, Nail Growth Solution, Nail Whitener, Nail Strengthener and 2-in-1 Quick Dry that remedy a range of nail and cuticle troubles.

Complementing the Color and Treatment lines are Bobbie Diamond Aid Cuticle Remover and the acetone-free Nail Polish Remover, nail-cleansing products that do not only clean the nails and safely remove cuticles but also moisturize them through conditioning properties.

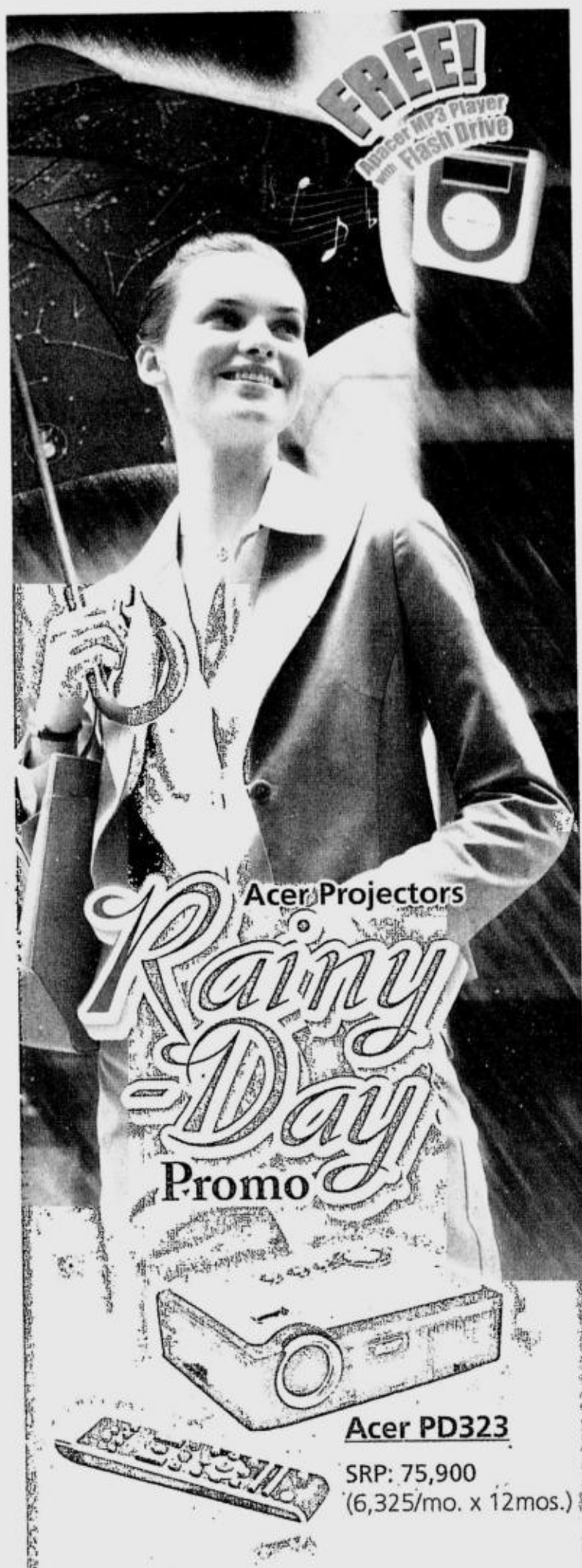
Finally, the Bobbie Diamond Tools are five essential nail implements that are safe and easy to use and designed to give the best performance for your nails. These include the Fingernail Clipper, Toenail Clipper, 2-in-1 Cuticle Trimmer and Pusher, 2-in-1 Nail File and Cuticle Trimmer, and 2-in-1 Nail Buffer and Brush.

Check out the Bobbie Diamond Collection at Watson's branches.



TROPICAL FRAGRANCE

Elizabeth Arden Green Tea tropical adds a splash of paradise to the sparkle of Green Tea Original. Inspired by the warm sun and cool breezes of the tropics, the scent is sunny and fun, evoking the flavors of Central America's native fruits. The fragrance was designed by Mexican perfumer Rodrigo Flores-Roux of Quest International.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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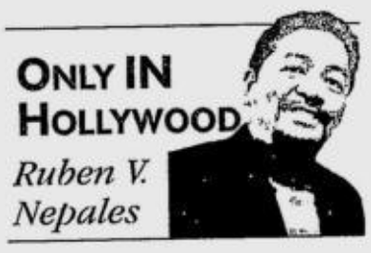
Anne Hathaway's beau

... and Auraeus Solito is still ecstatic over his first award from a US film fest



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

THE "DIARIES" princess finds her prince, wealthy Italian businessman Raffaello Follieri.

LOS ANGELES—"SOBRA NGA ang saya ko," **Auraeus Solito** said via e-mail about his continuing elation over "Tuli" winning the grand jury award for best international narrative feature in last Sunday's Outfest 2007 film festival awards night.

The filmmaker added, *"Hindi ko tuloy maisulat ang bago kong* story treatment for my dream film on Palawan."

"*Na*-realize *ko nga na ito pala ang* first award *ko sa* US," revealed the Palaweño.

Bruce Vilanch, the Emmy Award-winning writer of the Oscar shows and an actor who had his turn as **Edna Turnblad** in the Broadway version of "Hairspray," hosted the awards night.

Japanese-American actress and model **Jenny Shimizu**, who was the presenter in the category that Auraeus won, accepted the award on his behalf. Auraeus is in Manila where "Pisay," his third film, is an entry in the ongoing Cinemalaya film festival.

* * *

Anne Hathaway did not flinch. Or perhaps the Prada-wearing Devil's assistant is truly a good actress, convincingly camouflaging her unease—when a reporter asked her at a recent press con why she is still single despite her excited talk about marriage prospects in two previous interviews.

Flashing her winning smile, Anne replied, "First of all, he hasn't asked me. God, I don't know—there are so many reasons. I can only assume that things are taking their time and progressing the way that they're meant to be. If it's meant to happen, it will. I'm very happy. I couldn't love him more if we were married."

Marriage and children

"Him" is wealthy Italian businessman **Raffaello Follieri**, the actress' boyfriend of three years. Fetching in a red dress with a revealing décolletage, the girl in "Ella Enchanted" and "The Princess Diaries" movie series suddenly looked all woman to us. We've interviewed the actress over the years but this afternoon, Anne, at 24, seemed to have blossomed overnight.

The red hue of her outfit made her porcelain white skin stand out even more. Snow White came to our mind.

"To be perfectly honest, I hope he doesn't ask me any time soon because I'm too busy to plan a wedding," she continued. "So I think that's why he has not asked me because he's very sensitive to my (career) situation."

When asked if she is really committed to Raffaello, Anne quickly answered, "Oh, absolutely. Both of us have traditional values. I see marriage and children and a white picket fence in my future." Laughing, she quipped, "That white picket fence might be somewhere in the middle of China." Her expressive eyes widened as they usually did when she was excited or thrilled.

The actress who played wife to **Jake Gyllenhaal**'s closeted husband in the acclaimed "Brokeback Mountain" is also deeply committed to Raffaello's philanthropic concerns. "I help my boyfriend with his charity work," she said with pride. "He has a foundation called the Follieri Foundation that focuses on improving the lives of children. We've begun a program in Central America to immunize children against Hepatitis A. We've vaccinated 1,000 children in Nicaragua. We've also just begun a program in Honduras to vaccinate 200,000 children."

Controversy

But controversy is starting to hound Raffaello and, by her association with him, Anne. News reports recently surfaced over Raffaello's legal troubles.

The Los Angeles Business Journal reported that Anne's beau has been sued by his business partner, **Ron Burkle**, owner of The Yucaipa Companies, for "willfully and systematically misappropriating at least $1.3 million of the over $55 million Yucaipa had…sunk into the joint venture, Follieri/Yucaipa Investments LLC. The suit alleges that misappropriations went to finance the 28-year-old Mr. Follieri's personal extravagances and budget mismanagement."

Anne, who was not included in the suit, did not bring up her

ANNE/ F4

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Whiz kids coach adults in fun quiz show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE'S A FUN QUIZ SHOW ON QTV that could make your viewing day. It's called "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" We caught the new program at 9 p.m. last Friday, July 13, and had an enjoyable time watching adult contestants answer quiz questions based on teaching material for American kids in grades 2 to 5.

You would think that, being adults, the contestants would find it easy to correctly answer "basic" questions. In reality, the adults had a harder time because it had been so long since they took up those subjects, so they often made mistakes.

Even more embarrassingly, the kids on the show came up with correct answers more often than the adults did. The bright children were there to help the adults, not the other way around, and the studio audience cheered them on.

So did the adult contestants, whose prospects of winning thousands of dollars often rested on the help they got from their young "consultants."

The partnership system worked well for one contestant, who made $100,000, but poorly for another, who ended up with only $5,000, even after using up all of her "helper" options, like copying her kid consultant's answer, and peeping into another child's answer sheet.

The show can become a viewing habit because it is not only informative, it's also a bracing and inspiring tribute to the intelligence of children, the hope of our world. With such bright young people on hand, our prospects are truly upbeat.

Of course, the show also scores points by showing its adult contestants having such a hard time remembering what they learned when they were in grade school. That's what gives the quiz show its humor quotient, and that's welcome, too!

For one thing, it reminds adult viewers that they need to keep their minds active and informed, so little kids won't run circles around them in the intelligence department!

Rainy Day Guarantee

Inclement weather is no big deal at Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The popular theme park offers a Rainy Day Guarantee, ongoing until Aug. 12: All walk-in guests who experience 10 minutes of continuous heavy rain are entitled to a free return ticket, valid two weeks from date of visit.

Other promo perks are for cardholders of Mercury Drug, National Bookstore and Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles. Log on to www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

Barbra Streisand

A two-CD collection, **Barbra Streisand**'s "Live in Concert 2006" album, has been released. Produced by Streisand and **Jay Landers**, the album is a breathtaking audio celebration. The 2006 concert tour found Streisand branching off into new creative directions, reinterpreting some of her best-loved standards and revisiting some rarely performed musical treasures from her celebrated back catalogue.

The album also debuts Streisand's duets with the pop-operatic quartet, Il Divo.

'Underdog'

Combining live action and digital animation, "Underdog" tells the unique story of a canine superhero. After a scientific experiment goes awry, an ordinary beagle unexpectedly finds himself with unimaginable powers—and the ability to speak! When a sinister plot threatens to destroy Underdog's community, only he can save the day.

Underdog is voiced by **Jason Lee**, while the movie's cast of live actors includes **Jim Belushi** and **Brad Garrett**.

'Dinamayan'

The pop alternative 6cyclemind band is back with 2 new single, "Damayan" and its music video premiered on MYX last July 23. The track is a remake of the Coco Jam original off 6cyclemind's third album, "Home," which is still out on CDs nationwide.

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	3 THE SIMPSONS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BLIND DATING GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RATATOUILLE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE SIMPSONS	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 RATATOUILLE	4 THE SIMPSONS	5 OUIJA	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE SIMPSONS	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 RATATOUILLE	4 OUIJA
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	3 RATATOUILLE	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
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Voices behind the Simpsons

THE VOICES BEHIND THE LONGEST-running American sitcom and animated program turned up at the July 24 premiere of "The Simpsons Movie" at the Mann Village Theatre in Westwood, California.

Claiming their share of the limelight alongside Simpsons creator Matt Groening were: Nancy Cartwright, left, who voices Bart, the 10-year-old troublemaker; Yeardley Smith, lower left, as Bart's smart 8-year-old sister Lisa; Julie Kavner, below right, as Marge, the stereotypical American housewife; and Don Castalleneta, below left, as husband Homer who works as a safety inspector in the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant.

The Simpsons marks its 20th anniversary this year. The current movie, like the TV program that began as a series of animated shorts in "The Tracey Ulmann Show," lampoons American culture. REUTERS

BOO

amboo in Davao

S COLLEGE OF TECH-gy and Mindanao cal Foundation Col- of Davao celebrates its anniversary with a concert featuring Bam- tomorrow, 6:30 p.m. he MATS Gym, o City.

ere will also ports intramu- and other stu- activities.

out time

e young alternative band Verses joins the onmental concert tour About Time: A Sere- to Mother Nature" on 31, 5 p.m. at the Poly- nic University of the pines (PUP) Gym, Mesa, Manila.

e concert is hosted by y Zuñiga and Juan igo. Other performers de Marri Nallos, Christan, Noel Cabangon and Banda Kawayan.

Verses is composed of Jorge Diño (lead vocals/guitar); RD Marata, (lead guitar); Ry Banot (rhythm guitar); Rx Reyes (bass) and Zy Acedera (drums).

SHOW TIME

Parokya in Marilao

Parokya ni Edgar's "Matira Matibay" album mall tour goes to SM Marilao on July 29 at 6 p.m.

Tonight

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July 31

Richard Poon at Fuente Circle, Eastwood City

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RATATOUILLE – G 12:50,3:20,5:50,8:20	BLIND DATING – PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	RATATOUILLE – G 12:20,2:50, 5:30,8:00,10:30

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–Kim Voynar, cinematical.com

"It's damned FUNNY. The laughs go from smirks to soda spittters. Joy has been in short supply at the movies lately, and OSS 117 was a SHEER DELIGHT."
–David Poland, MCN Reviews

The British have JAMES BOND, AUSTIN POWERS and JOHNNY ENGLISH. The French only need one man to finish the job.

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'Vacancy' at this inn of iniquity

REVIEW

LUKE Wilson and Kate Beckinsale in "Vacancy"

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THE SUSPENSE THRILLER-SLASHER flick "Vacancy" isn't that different a take on the "killer versus unwitting new prey" idea, but it does offer genuine chills along the way. Set in the confines of a cheap motel and the surrounding small-town buildings, "Vacancy" generates enough fear in the most crucial parts. That doesn't mean it's unpredictable. Nimrod Antal's mood-adept direction and the small cast led by versatile Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson make it worth watching.

Typical start

It starts like most films from the genre. A bickering couple gets lost in a creepy, god-forsaken town, and their car suddenly breaks down. They have no choice but to stay in a shabby motel for the night. Amy (Beckinsale) and David (Wilson) argue some more, but are interrupted by strange phone calls and banging on their door. David complains to the motel clerk (Frank Whaley) and returns to his wife, but soon discovers some sickening videos of people getting killed in the same room!

That's basically the film's premise, and it's mostly about survival for the horrified pair at this point. They also discover hidden architectural secrets and use them to their advantage. They're smart characters, undoubtedly, but they make a few dumb mistakes that would make some viewers yell at the screen. That's how involved you're bound to get, at least until the point when things unfold rather typically. Still, like good hunter-prey films of the past, "Vacancy" evokes much with such a spare venue, and largely because of the leads' acting precision.

You'll believe that Beckinsale is a whimpering, defenseless waif. When within proximity of her adversaries, you'll pray that she'll hand them their butts just as easily as she does in her "Underworld" series of action films. But she's that good and convincing; her grieving, sullen character matches quite well Wilson's surprisingly subdued portrayal of the pained but enduring husband. You also get the impression that, in the right circumstances, these two, regardless of differences, won't give up without a fight. The resolution goes against the typical formula—the protagonists' survival here is too dependent on luck, not skill or smarts—refreshing, if a bit corny.

While the "couples in danger" theme has been more compellingly done in other films, such as the 1997 Kurt Russell-starrer "Breakdown," the surprise-free transformation of the precariously hanging relationship of the characters here is still interesting to see.

Not voyeurism

A cerebral dissection of snuff films (or real murder videos) has been tackled in Alejandro Amenabar's film "Tesis," but "Vacancy" isn't about discussing such sick voyeurism. Nevertheless, it does have brief scenes that frighteningly focus on the brutal demise of victims who vainly tried to escape. Even so, "Vacancy" doesn't resort to the easier, trendier, and more stomach-turning route of showing inhuman acts in graphic detail.

Anne Hathaway's beau

From page F1

boyfriend's legal problems. After all, she came to drum up media support for her new film, "Becoming Jane." The American actress becomes Britain's beloved novelist, **Jane Austen**, and guess what? She pulls it off, including the English accent.

A different torture

Speculating on the literary icon's brief relationship with an aspiring Irish lawyer, **Tom Lefroy** (played by **James McAvoy**, always engaging), "Becoming Jane" is Anne's movie. Although talented thespians **Maggie Smith**, **Julie Walters** and **James Cromwell** are also in the cast, this is a major acting vehicle for Anne.

After coping with **Meryl Streep** as her character's tormentor in "The Devil Wears Prada," Anne had to face a different torture in "Becoming Jane": the corset she had to wear with her 19th century costumes. "I would go running in the corset," she joked. "No, it was awful. But it was very helpful. The movie takes place in a time that was very repressive for women. So the corset helped very much with getting that feeling. It took some getting used to. I was wearing it too tight for the first couple of weeks. It would almost cut off circulation in my body."

She continued, "You can't eat when you're wearing a corset because your body can't digest food. Coco Chanel should be commended for liberating women from the corset, I can tell you that firsthand."

ANNE Hathaway is beloved author Jane Austen in "Becoming Jane," which depicts her romance with Tom Lefroy (played by James McAvoy).

We asked Anne if she buys the notion that **Jane Austen**'s romantic heartbreak over the affair with **Tom Lefroy**, who reportedly inspired the Mr. Darcy character in "Pride and Prejudice," sparked her writing.

"It's a very controversial argument," she answered. "I don't think she needed to find Mr. Right to write. I shouldn't say that because I'm the star of a movie that says she did. We have an argument in the movie that sums it up the best. It's a part of the script that I fell in love with right from the beginning. It was the artists' argument—is it experience or imagination that informs the work? I think it's both."

English accent

The one time Vassar College and New York University student continued, "I think Jane did have heartbreak in her life. Not just a romantic heartbreak but she had extreme disappointments brought on by a lack of money and by society's views of what a woman could achieve. Her sad life is probably more responsible for motivating her to write."

On mastering an English accent for the role, Anne explained, "In the beginning, I tried going in and out of the accent when I was on the set. I felt a bit silly speaking to British people in a fake accent. I just felt like an impostor...I moved to England for a month before we started filming. I worked with a dialect coach for about six hours every day. And I practiced on my own. I would try to go out into the streets and try to pass my British accent. Some days I was successful and some days I got some very strange looks.

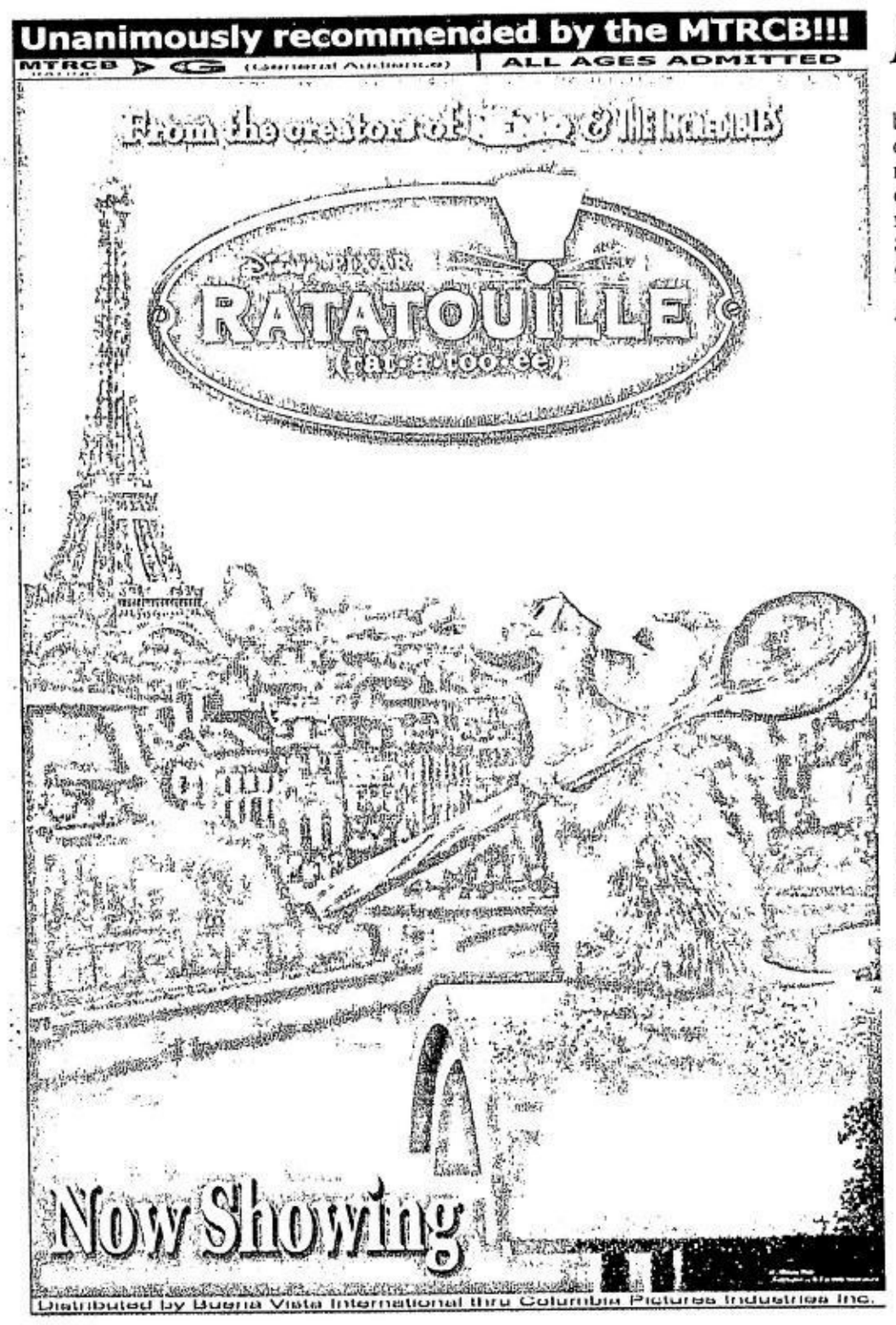
Great partner

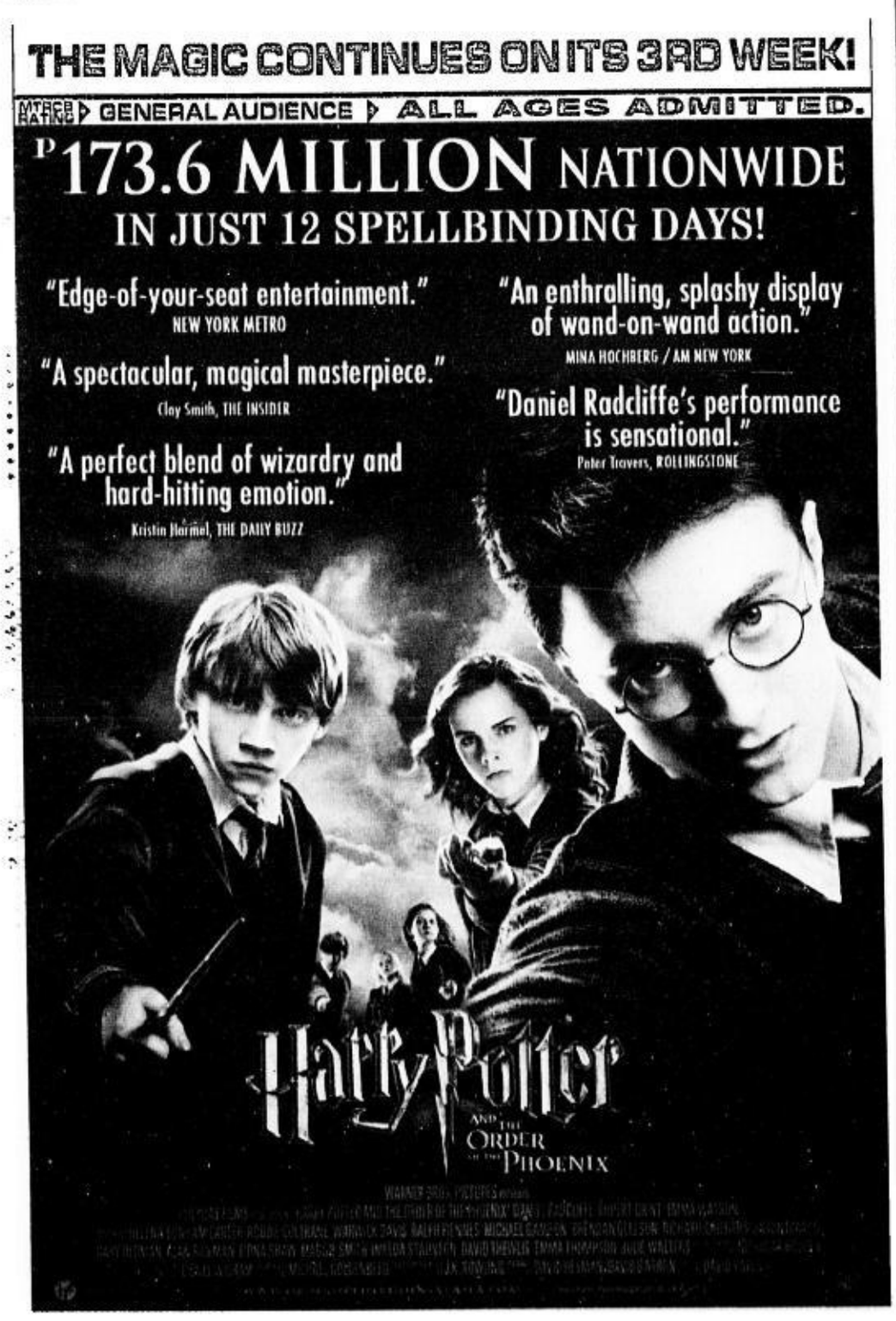
Anne lavished praise on James, who appeared with **Forest Whitaker** in "The Last King of Scotland: "I had been working with him for a couple of days when I realized, my God, this guy's really good. He's just fascinating to watch. He was a great partner. He has no ego. Believe me, he's someone who could have an ego—he's so talented."

She went on, "I saw him act on that UK TV show called 'Shameless' with his wife, **Anne Marie Duff**. I just burst into tears because I thought, I can't work with him. He's too good.

"So I went in the next day and I remember just staring at him. He goes, 'You're creeping me out. What's going on?' I said, I can't act opposite you anymore. You're too good. He just told me to stop being stupid, shut up and say my lines."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.





Why Giselle Sanchez was ordered out of a Louis Vuitton store in Rome 10 years ago, and what she did about it. Page G2

LIVING Stars

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INSIDE

'Starstruck' boys' toys Hobbies /G4

Aussie Zeke goes home to Laguna /G4

GIRL'S NIGHT OUT
Winona Ryder comes out of hiding and arrives solo at the film premiere of "The Ten" in New York on July 23. REUTERS

RED CARPET

RYAN, GEOFF AND AJ EIGENMANN

TAIL TALES

SAYS MOM GINA ALAJAR: AJ (BELOW) has Benny, the two-month-old Siberian Husky; Geoff (bottom, right) has the Pomeranian Muncheez, the queen among all the pets; and Ryan (right) has Kief, one of four fully grown Siberians. Our other Siberians are Rieffer, Lilo and Hashbrown. We hired someone whose job is to feed, bathe and give the dogs their vitamins. We bring them to the vet regularly. There's always chaos in the house when one of the boys arrives from work. That's because the big dogs get so excited. When I arrive, they are quiet because they know that I hate noise. The Pomeranian has her own way of communicating with me whenever she wants to be carried, though. And when the boys go abroad, they bring home lots of *pasalubong* for the pets.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF GINA ALAJAR

SHAINA MAGDAYAO

BOOKS

THE BOOK I AM CURRENTLY READING, "Your Best Life Now" by Joel Osteen, is a gift from my best friend Bea Alonzo. A lot of people have been recommending this book to me. They say it teaches you to have a more positive outlook after reading about the experiences of other people and how they stayed strong to overcome problems. I enjoy reading inspirational and self-help books. Whenever I feel depressed, I remind myself that my troubles are nothing compared to those of other people. I also love the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

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SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BLIND DATING
2 VACANCY
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 RATATOUILLE
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
8 PLANET TERROR
9 DIE HARD 4
10 OUIJA
11 WHITE NOISE
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 BLIND DATING
2 TIYANAKS
3 WHITE NOISE
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4
6 THE SIMPSONS
7 RATATOUILLE
8 OUIJA
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 VACANCY
11 PLANET TERROR
12 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 RATATOUILLE
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 OUIJA
6 PLANET TERROR
7 DIE HARD 4
8 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
9 BLIND DATING
10 VACANCY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 RATATOUILLE
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 OUIJA

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE SIMPSONS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 BLIND DATING
7 PLANET TERROR
8 DIE HARD 4
9 VACANCY

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 BLIND DATING
3 RATATOUILLE
4 DIE HARD 4
5 THE SIMPSONS
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
8 PLANET TERROR
9 OUIJA
10 WHITE NOISE
11 TIYANAKS
12 VACANCY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 OUIJA
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 RATATOUILLE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 THE SIMPSONS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 RATATOUILLE
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 OUIJA
4 THE SIMPSONS

moviestime — Event Calendar

Kids of all ages are invited to

Remy's Kitchen

A fun-filled activity for budding chefs

July 28 (Saturday)
at Mall of Asia Activity Area (near IMAX Theater)

Admission is free!
Participants are accepted on a first come, first served basis.
Sessions are at 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Learn to be like Remy and Linguini in preparing mouth-watering desserts. Kids who prepared the best dessert will win special prizes.

See you there!

Special Thanks to:

MALL OF ASIA No Other Mall Comes Close

Distributed by Buena Vista International

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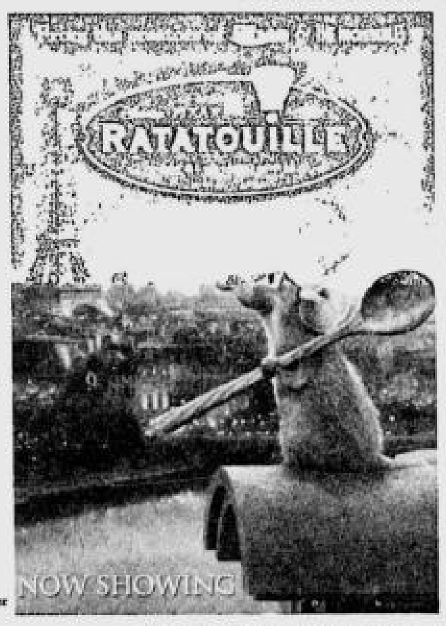

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 BLIND DATING
2 WHITE NOISE
3 OUIJA
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 RATATOUILLE
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 RATATOUILLE
5 OUIJA
6 THE SIMPSONS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 OUIJA
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 RATATOUILLE
2 OUIJA
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 ZODIAC

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037681-85
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 RATATOUILLE
5 THE SIMPSONS
6 OUIJA

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 RATATOUILLE
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 OUIJA
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 THE SIMPSONS
4 HARRY POTTER 5

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 OUIJA
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 RATATOUILLE
4 HARRY POTTER 5

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 OUIJA
3 VACANCY
4 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811
1 THE SIMPSONS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE
4 OUIJA

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 OUIJA
4 BORDERTOWN
5 THE SIMPSONS
6 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2084
1 RATATOUILLE
2 OUIJA
3 THE SIMPSONS
4 HARRY POTTER 5

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 ZODIAC
3 RATATOUILLE
4 OUIJA
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 THE SIMPSONS
7 RESERVED
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 VACANCY
6 NEXT
7 OUIJA
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 RATATOUILLE
3 THE SIMPSONS
4 OUIJA

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Cineplex
1 RATATOUILLE
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 RATATOUILLE
4 THE SIMPSONS 4.04.04.0

PREMIERE
HARRY POTTER - 5

Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 HARRY POTTER - 5

Center Mall Cinema Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
2 RATATOUILLE

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 OUIJA
3 RATATOUILLE
4 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 RATATOUILLE
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 OUIJA
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TRANSFORMERS

Eastwood Cinemas (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 RATATOUILLE
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 RATATOUILLE
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Starmall EDSA-Shaw (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 RATATOUILLE
4 OUIJA
5 RESERVED

Metropolis Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 RATATOUILLE
2 OUIJA
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 PLANET TERROR

Cinema 2000 — Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
2 OUIJA
3 RATATOUILLE
4

THEATRES
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 VACANCY
3 OUIJA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
1 OUIJA
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 VACANCY
2 OUIJA
3 HARRY POTTER - 5

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 VACANCY
2 OUIJA
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Filinvest Festival Cinema (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 RATATOUILLE
3 THE SIMPSONS
4 HARRY POTTER -5
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4.0
7 RATATOUILLE
8 HARRY POTTER - 5
9 VACANCY
10 BLIND DATING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 OUIJA
3 RATATOUILLE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 OUIJA
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 28 WEEKS LATER

Blue Wave Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 OUIJA
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 RATATOUILLE
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 KRISANTA
3 PLANET TERROR
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 RATATOUILLE
2 MATAMIS HANGANG DULO
3 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
4 OUIJA
5 HARRY POTTER - 5

SUPER CINERAMA Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RATATOUILLE
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 OUIJA
4 BLIND DATING
5 HARRY POTTER - 5

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CAPE KARMA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 VACANCY
4 OUIJA

Marketplace Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 OUIJA
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 VACANCY
4 TRANSFORMERS

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KARELASYON
2 KAKAIBANG KARISMA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GISELLE Sanchez with Piolo Pascual in Rome.

'Looters thwarted my

By Giselle Sanchez
Contributor

IN JUNE AND JULY OF EVERY YEAR, FILIPINO communities in Europe gather to celebrate our Independence Day. This is also the time when performers like myself get to travel for free to entertain at said gatherings.

For that very purpose, TFC (The Filipino Channel) Europe brought me and the handsome Piolo Pascual to Rome last month. I flew in from Barcelona, where I had performed with Randy Santiago.

Being in Rome again, talking to Overseas Filipino Workers, telling them how proud the nation was of them, reminded me of an incident in a Louis Vuitton shop there 10 years ago. It would be hilarious, if it hadn't been so infuriating.

After my first-ever concert in Rome for OFWs, my friend Cutie del Mar decided to buy an LV bag, and brought me along. I didn't want to enter the shop because I was carrying a fake Louis—I couldn't afford a real one.

Cutie scolded me about buying fakes. I had found my niche in show biz, she said; carrying fakes was simply crass. I blinked, and threw caution to the wind.

As we stepped into the shop, the manager spotted my fake bag at once. He sauntered over and asked patronizingly, "What nationality?"

"I am Filipi...," I started to reply, but he cut me short and launched a tirade: "You Filipina maids bring your fake Louis Vuittons to my store...may I request that you please leave if you're not buying anything."

I was piqued, to say the least, and shot back: "Excuse me! I am a celebrity in my country and I just performed for the heroes that you call maids. Please do not call them that."

As I had just watched "Pretty Woman," starring Julia Roberts. I tried a line on the impertinent manager. "Do you work on commission?"

"As a matter of fact, I do," he said, nostrils flaring.

"Well," I said again, "what is the most expensive item here?" He pointed to a suitcase as big as a cabinet, and quoted a price. I blinked again. "What is the second most expensive?" He pointed to another item that I couldn't afford either, not in two lifetimes.

"Forget it," I scoffed. "I will get that, that, that

Performing for "my h

and that—but not fr
over a salesman at th
That felt really go
Cutie was astoun
money? she asked.
maxed out my credi
Back in Rome, I w
armed with wisdom
Guess what? Geo
irked the hell out of
were all over Piaz
throwing pillboxes
grenades?), crashin
cluding that of the
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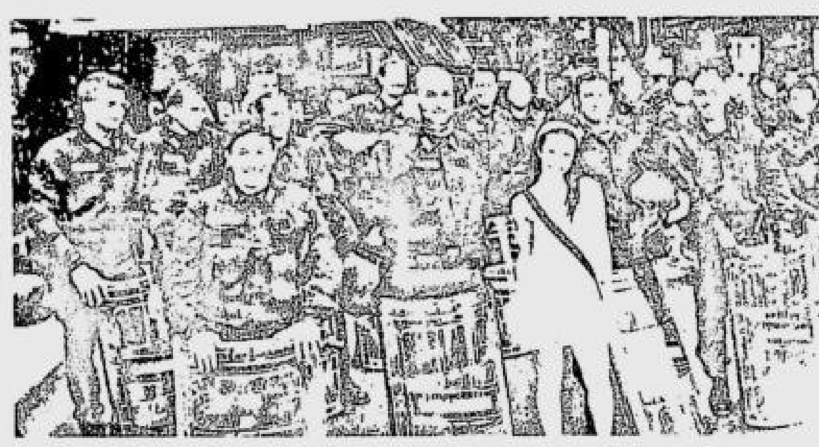
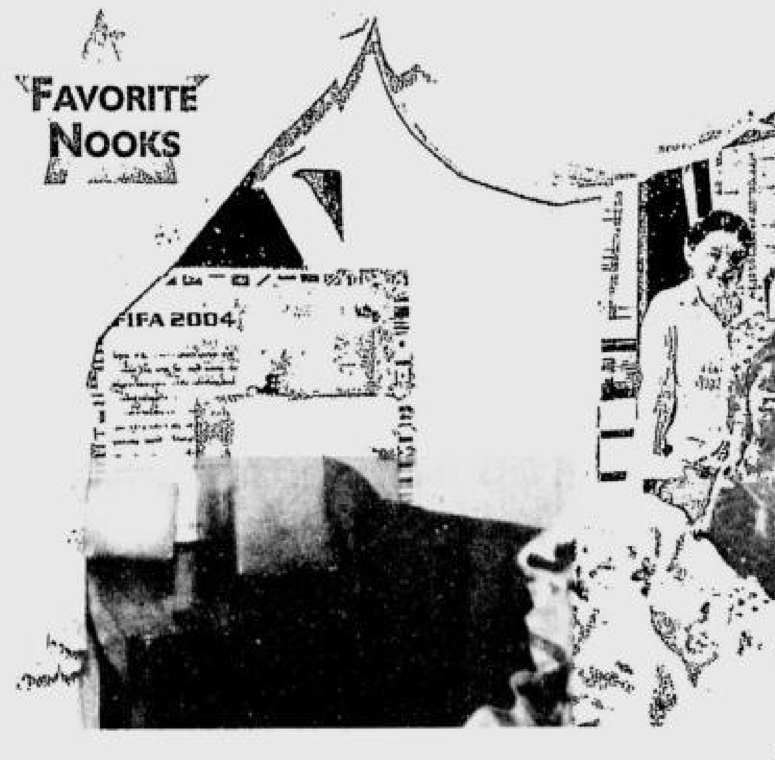
Kids were looting
could give in to my
the police came ma
up doing instead,
them.
Giselle just left for B
Bautista, to do anoth
munity there.


SNAPSHOT with the police in Piazza España.

JACLYN JOSE

MY FAVORITE spot in the house is the molave swing in the veranda. My b
helps me whenever I buy pieces of furniture. For example, I bought that
store near White Plains. Since it's *molave*, I knew that it's very hardy. Eve
and rain, it won't get damaged. The few pieces I own are not expensive
daughter Andie and son Gwen (in photo) love hanging out in the veranda
corner, where I hung native blinds and had a trellis installed.

FAVORITE NOOKS



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revenge'

eroes."

m you; from him." I waved
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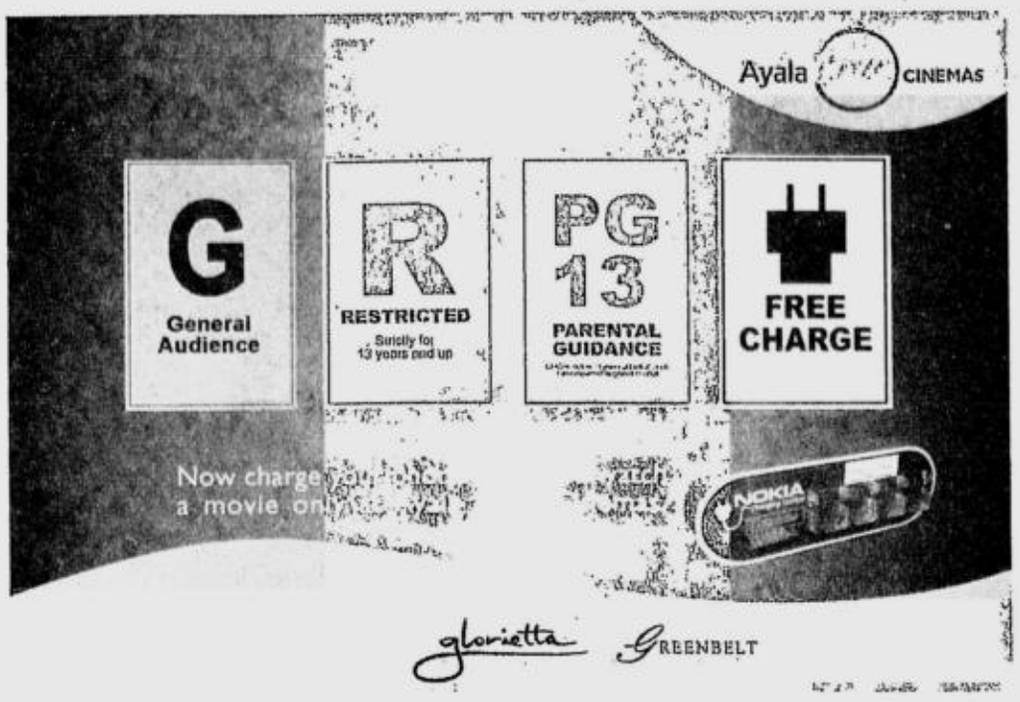
f course I didn't. I had just
card.
ant to go back to that store
maturity, and more money.
ge Bush was in town and it
ne Italians. Militant groups
a España, screaming and
were those actually hand
into display windows, in-
V shop I was bent on enter-

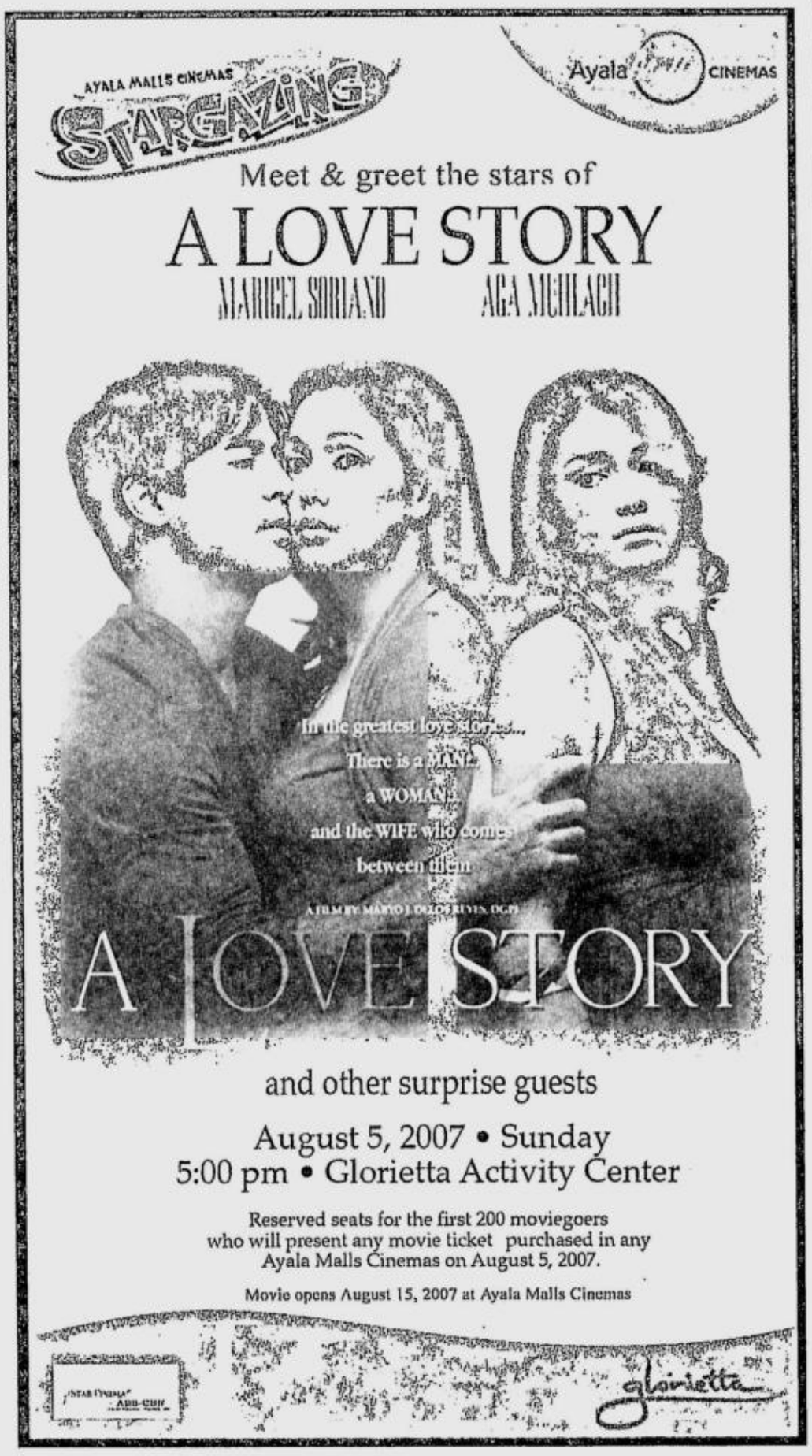
lesigner shops! But before I
mpulse and join in the fray,
ching in, and what I ended
is pose for snapshots with

ackneil, UK, with Christian
er concert for the Pinoy com-

ckground in interior design
wing in a country furniture
n if it's exposed to sunshine
but they are beautiful. My
I personally decorated that

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN





ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price: 100/150 -180 Indie Sine: 100 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 5 • THX
1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30LMF

2 OUIJA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
12:40 2:50 5:00 7:00 9:10

4 DIE HARD 4
12:00 2:30 5:00

5 RATATOUILLE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 VACANCY
12:30MF 2:20 4:10 6:00

7 BLIND DATING
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 indieSine: HANGGANG DITO NA LAMANG.
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30

9 HARRY POTTER 5 11:20 2:00 4:40
THE SIMPSONS 8:00 9:50

10 TRANSFORMERS
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

SHOWING TODAY !

Felino Tañada's
HANGGANG DITO NA LAMANG AT MARAMING SALAMAT PO

This is the film adaptation of **Orlando Nadres'** breakthrough play about homosexuality, starring **Nonie Buencamino** as a repressed pawnshop owner, **Jon Santos**, as the town's beautician, and **Jerwin Mercado** as the man that will change their lives forever.

indieSine

R-18! APPROVED WITHOUT CUTS!

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P100/P120

1 OUIJA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 DIE HARD 4
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6.20 8:25 10:00

4 RATATOUILLE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 BLIND DATING
12:50 3.05 5:20 7:35 10:00

6 TRANSFORMERS
11:00MF 1:35 4:10 6:50 10:00

7 HARRY POTTER 5
11:00MF 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100/P110 - 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 TRANSFORMERS
12:00MF 3:00 6:00 9:00

2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

3 RATATOUILLE
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

4 BLIND DATING
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

5 DIE HARD 4
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

6 VACANCY
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 HARRY POTTER 5
11:00 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20

8 OUIJA
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 - 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 RATATOUILLE
3 OUIJA
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 - 687-5378

1 RATATOUILLE
1:15MF 3:45 6:15 8:40

2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
11:35MF 1:45 3:55 6:10

3 OUIJA
1:10MF 3:35 6:00 8:25

4 BLIND DATING
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 CAPE KARMA
4 RATATOUILLE
5 OUIJA

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 - (043) 312-5870

1 RATATTOUILLE
2 OUIJA
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 CAPE KARMA
5 VACANCY

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 CAPE KARMA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 OUIJA
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 - (046) 471-8188

1 WHITE NOISE 2
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 PLANET TERROR
4 RATATOUILLE
5 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
6 OUIJA

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 RATATOUILLE
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 OUIJA
4 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

TARLAC

1 OUIJA
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 VACANCY

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 RATATOUILLE
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 OUIJA
5 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
6 HARRY POTTER 5

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE
5 RESERVE
6 PAN'S LABYRINTH

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 OUIJA
3 RATATOUILLE
4 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
5 ZODIAC
6 TRANSFORMERS

LICENSE TO WED

An Unforgettable Photo Exhibit

July 30 - August 07 • *Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema Lobby*

Submit a blow-up photo (min. size of 8"x11") of your most unforgettable wedding moment with a short description. Include contact details.

Deadline of submission of entries: **July 29**

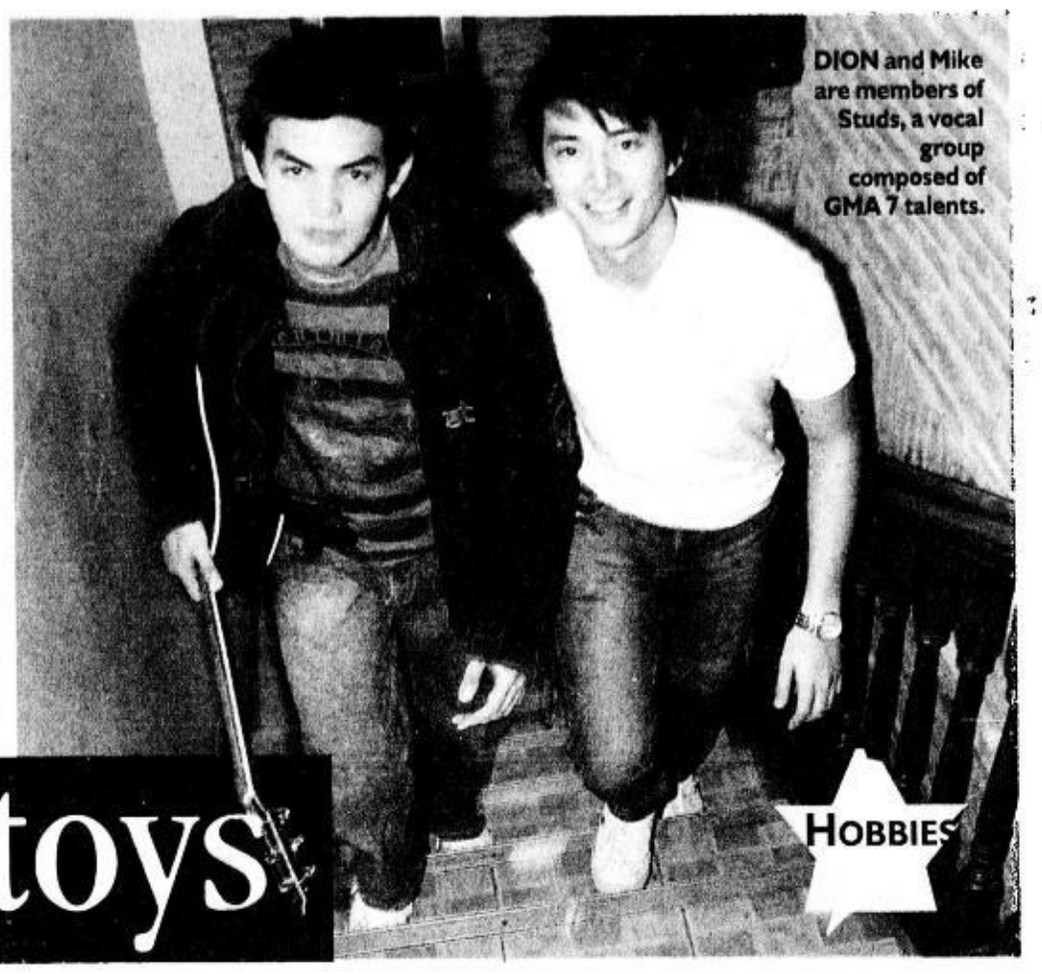
Send entries to: MARKETING DEPARTMENT - CINEMA
L4 Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Ortigas Ave., Quezon City
Winners will get gift certificates at Holiday Inn and other exciting give aways!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MIKE bought his 2005 Toyota Innova with his show biz earnings.

DION has saved music videos of his favorite guitarists on his iPod.

DURING work breaks, Mike listens to music on his Thump shades/ MP3 player in one.



DION and Mike are members of Studs, a vocal group composed of GMA 7 talents.

HOBBIES

Boys' toys

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

GRADUATES OF THE GMA 7 TALENT SEARCH "Starstruck," Dion Ignacio and Mike Tan have different interests, but share a love for music.

Mike is into basketball. And he loves sneakers. As proof, he showed us a car trunk full of them.

"Lacoste, Fila, Diesel, Converse, Adidas, Replay," he recited some of the brands in his footwear collection. "I make sure I have a few leather pairs, too. My favorite is a Pabder Uomo."

He's a size 12, but he said his feet are still growing.

Mike prefers black or white shoes, but he once bought a red pair. "It's so hard to find clothes to go with bright-colored sneakers," he noted.

He follows the same fashion principle in buying clothes and watches. "No loud colors."

Whenever he works, the back of Mike's 2005 Toyota Innova is crammed with clothes and shoes.

He also brings to the set his Thump Oakley shades equipped with an MP3 player, so he can listen to music between takes.

"At first I wanted to buy an iPod and shades," Mike said. "But I saved a lot when I bought the Oakley because it's two things in one."

Dion never leaves home, either, without his video iPod —which is loaded with heavy metal, alternative rock and hip-hop stuff.

"Incubus, Metallica, My Chemical Romance, Panthera, Rage Against the Machine," he recited.

He also downloads videos of American guitarist John Petrucci.

Although Petrucci is difficult to imitate, Dion said he has learned a lot from watching the master musician.

His guitar-playing, which he picked up when was only 12, is his "passion," he stressed. "When I feel sad, I play the guitar. It makes me forget my problems."

He has three guitars—an Ibanez electric, a Vantage bass and a Rock Star acoustic.

He bought the Rock Star in Sta. Mesa for only P3,800.

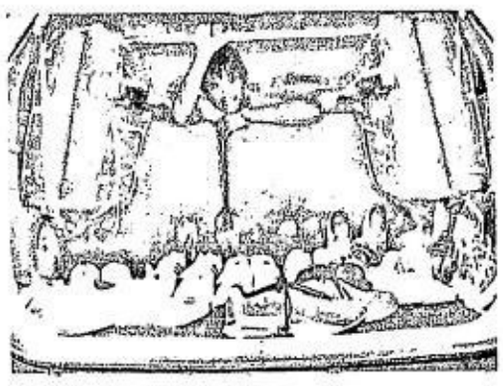
"It was a great buy; it's made of good wood," he insisted.

He said he has serenaded a girl, a provincemate in Laguna, with one of his guitars.

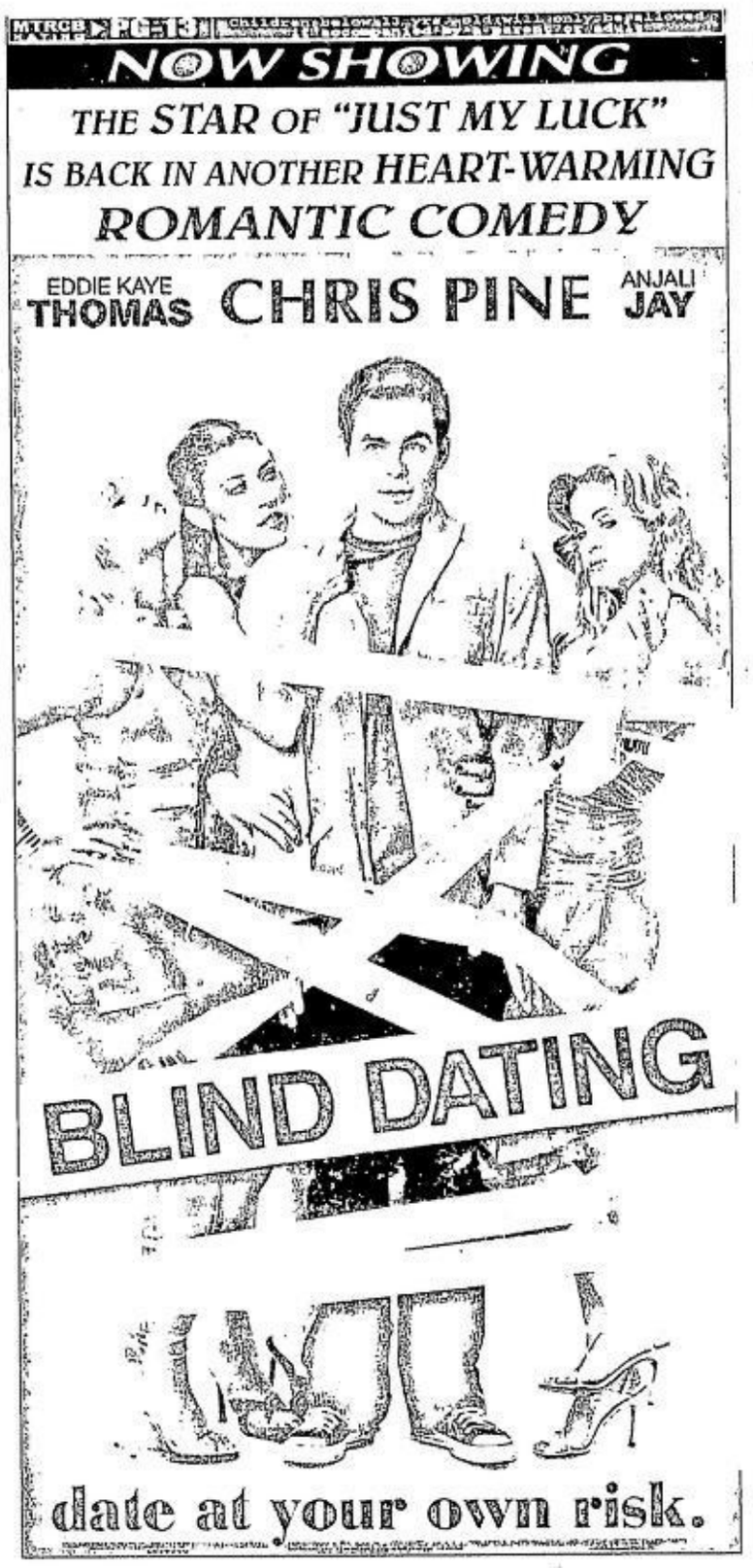
"I played Edwin McCain's 'I'll Be,' but I was too shy to pursue her," he recounted.

Dion has formed a rock band called Ayayatok with friends and the vocal group Studs, with Mike and other GMA 7 talents.

DION shows off his electric and acoustic guitars.



MIKE collects sneakers.



Return of the native

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

EN ROUTE TO CALAMBA, LAGUNA, Zeke Dimaguila, former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate (Season 2), drops a bombshell: "I am related to [national hero] Jose Rizal on the illegitimate side."

That's not one for the textbooks.

Zeke explains: "Basically, a close relative of Rizal's had a relationship outside of marriage. It was with a *yaya* [nanny]."

Had there been reality TV shows in Rizal's time, that little indiscretion would've been a ratings booster.

"I found out about it only recently," Zeke relates. "My mom's grandmother traced back our lineage to the Rizals. When I go to Laguna, I try to pass by the Rizal Shrine."

On this trip, though, he is visiting his maternal grandmother Anita Rejuso.

He describes his septuagenarian *lola* as pretty cool. "She can be *makulit* [unrelenting] like other old folks, but I can open up to her. We talk about a lot of things."

Needless to say, Lola Anita was Zeke's biggest supporter when he was still cooped up in *Kuya*'s house.

"I cried when he was evicted," Lola looks back.

Zeke left with his parents for Sydney when he was only a year and a half, she recalls.

Although he grew up in Australia, he has developed a hankering for Filipino cuisine.

"His favorite is *menudo*. He also likes *monggo*," Lola relates. "I sent a recipe book to his mom so she could cook Filipino dishes in Australia."

A home-cooked meal is one of Zeke's perks when visiting Calamba. He also brings his laundry. "I like my clothes hand-washed," he says.

He also takes care of two dogs, Tagpi and Banker, in his *lola*'s house.

Clearly, Zeke prefers rural serenity to urban chaos. Of Laguna, he says, "It's quiet here. It's not crowded. I come here for the *buko* pie, pineapple pie and *espasol*. I go swimming in Pansol's hot springs."

Yet another incentive is that he can walk around Calamba in relative peace.

"I'm kinda normal here," he quips. "Unlike in Manila where I'm a minor celebrity. It's fun, but you have to always be careful what you say in public."

Like family secrets?

Zeke is a distant kin of Dr. Jose Rizal's.

AUSSIE boy loves *lola*'s *menudo*.

HE SAYS he can discuss anything with his *lola*.

AS A KID, he was "naughty."

LOLA Anita and Zeke watch TV in the living room.

Dousing the fires of road rage

By Tessa R. Salazar

WITH THE VATICAN RECENTLY issuing its own "Ten Commandments" for drivers, there's still hope for everyone. That is, everyone who took to heart what the documents from Rome said.

The Vatican described automobiles could be "an occasion of sin" - particularly when used to make dangerous overtaking maneuvers or when used by flesh-traders and their clients. (And it probably becomes a "mortal" sin when you do both at the same time.)

Anyway, the point of this short essay is the Vatican's warning about the effects of road rage, saying driving may bring out "primitive" behavior in motorists, including "impoliteness, rude gestures, cursing, blasphemy, loss of sense of responsibility or deliberate infringement of the highway code."

With 18 years of driving behind me (I think I started way below the legal limit for student drivers. Mercy, LTO!), I myself can attest to the truth of this observation. And it has taken all my power to follow just what the Vatican urges all motorists to do: avoid road rage. I've gone to the extent of consulting a feng shui expert on how to attract positive vibes in my car ("tie a blue string to your rear view mirror"). But really, my temper sometimes gets the best of me, and I'd just like to tie that blue string around the other driver's neck. Provoked in the right way, I have become involved in highway shouting matches, cat-and-mouse games, bad finger-lickin' good gestures, you name it.

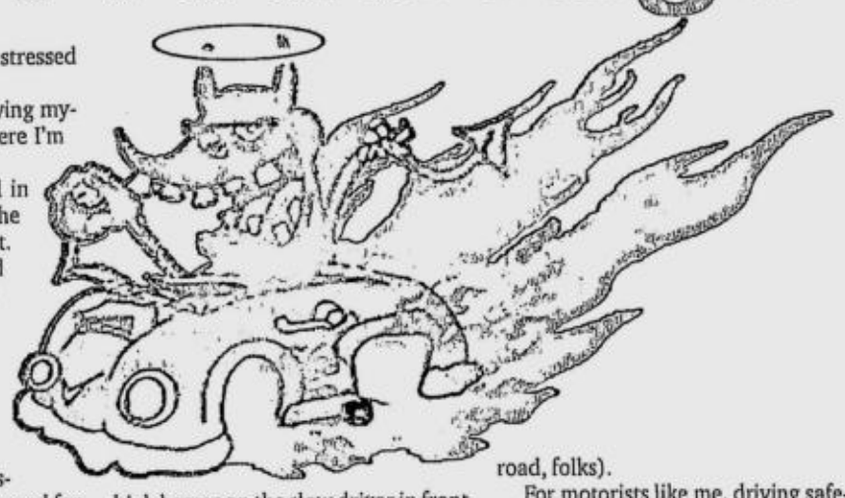
Meditation music has somewhat helped me douse my wrath (perhaps making me more deserving of what can be called a good Catholic), but then it hardly helps me stay awake while driving. Enya's music is cool, but it's sometimes hair-raising, especially when I'm driving alone at night, and then I resort to panic-driving mode, which is un-cool. So, Enya has been reserved for the daytime playlist, during the morning rush hour preferably.

At the extreme end of road rage is boredom, to the point that driving may become monotonous, lulling you to stupor. I don't know which is more dangerous-driving in a fit of rage or driving asleep-but I know both can lead to tragedy. No amount of coffee latte or rock music can snatch a person who just had a very tiring day and had only two hours of sleep the night before from sleeping behind the wheel. One advice, if you really can't avoid driving under these circumstances: remove anything that moves in a monotonous direction, like a "nodding" dog or a "waving" cat, from the dashboard. These boring up-and-down or left-and-right movements can actually put you in a trance. Here's another great idea: Stop at the nearest gas station, park near the convenience store, and take a 20-minute nap. That's all it takes to snatch you from certain mishap.

Napping is easy. Let's get back to the curse of the road rage. Here are my other personal approaches to averting the bane of every stressed out driver:

*Plotting my route and giving myself plenty of time to get where I'm going.

* I've constantly pounded in my head that driving in the streets is not about being first. Sometimes, nice guys-and gals-have to finish last. As long as I obey traffic rules and not get my license confiscated, I'm fine. I'd rather wait in line at the toll booth in my air-conditioned car than paying thousands of bucks for my confiscated license at LTO to be released for a stupid traffic infraction I could have totally avoided in the first place.



* Never do I forget to use signal lights when changing lanes. Road rage arises when you "unpleasantly surprise" the motorist behind you. He or she may take it personally.

* I am learning, albeit gradually, not to give in to the temptation of tailgating and impatiently blinking my high beams on the slow driver in front of me. I just shake my head and pass to my right (IF I'm on a four-lane highway).

* I have learned to let the aggressive drivers pass me, without getting my "due revenge".

* I don't "high-beam back" those cars I meet that have blinding lights. I just literally look away (for a split second, that is. Eyes ALWAYS on the road, folks).

For motorists like me, driving safely has always been about that search to strike the perfect balance between wakefulness and serenity, between knowing when to be defensive and when to be aggressive. It has taken years --and some hard knocks-for me to be able to be as near to the median as I can get. Amen.

E-mail the author at tsalazar@inquirer.com.ph

2007 SUBURBAN

Sharper driving feel, 360-degree safety

REDESIGNED FOR 2007, THE all-new Chevrolet Suburban is capable of hauling more passengers and cargo and features a 360-degree safety system of occupant protection and crash-avoidance technology that demonstrates GM's commitment to providing world-class safety.

The '07 Chevrolet Suburban is based on GM's new, full-size SUV architecture, which features sleek exterior styling, a sharper, more precise driving feel, more power with improved fuel economy, increased interior refinement and improved quietness. Suburban rides on a 130-inch (3,302 mm) wheelbase, which supports generous passenger and cargo capability, while enabling a smooth ride. It also offers a host of new and enhanced safety features, including available head curtain side air bags and standard StabiliTrak stability control system with new rollover mitigation technology.

The Chevrolet Suburban comes standard with an efficient 5.3L V-8 with Active Fuel Management fuel-saving technology and offers up to 7,100 pounds (3,230 kg) of towing capability when properly equipped.

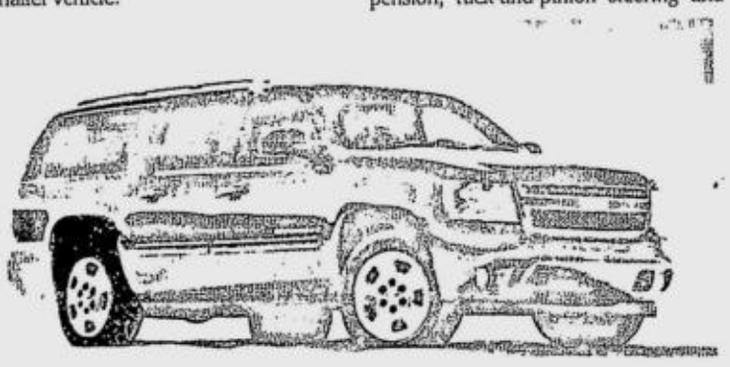
Superior safety

The '07 Chevrolet Suburban offers security in the form of a 360-degree perimeter safety system of occupant protection and crash avoidance technologies. New features include roof-mounted head curtain side air bags with rollover protection for all seating rows as well as dual front airbags and front-seat safety belt that are linked to the vehicle's sensing system to provide segment-exclusive deployment in rear-end crashes. These features are integrated into a stronger vehicle structure that is also designed for improved compatibility with other vehicles.

Crash avoidance is bolstered through enhanced design and driver control dynamics, such as wider front and rear tracks, as well as more responsive suspensions-including a new coil-over-shock front suspension design and new rack-and-pinion steering. The vehicles are built on a stronger and stiffer, fully boxed frame that contributes to enhanced crash energy management. The improved crush performance, enabled by hydro-formed frame rails and efficient chassis component packaging, also comprehends design provisions for improved vehicle-to-vehicle compatibility in the event of a frontal impact with a smaller vehicle.

New structure

Chevrolet Suburban is built on GM's new full-size SUV platform, which incorporates features such as a new, fully boxed frame, coil-over-shock front suspension, rack-and-pinion steering and an all-new, premium interior system that bolster the vehicle's comfort, quality and capability. Wider front and rear tracks enhance handling and lower the center of gravity for a more confident road feel.



Enhanced efficiency

Standard in Suburban 1500 models is an iron-block Vortec 5.3L V-8 with 320 hp (239 kW) and 340 lb.-ft. of torque (461 Nm), which offers Active Fuel Management fuel-saving technology. Active Fuel Management technology seamlessly switches between eight- and four-cylinder power to save fuel.

These features all contribute to enhanced fuel economy and improved driving quietness, compared with previous models.

Test drive today at your nearest Chevrolet dealer: MAKATI 894-1976, 867-8183 to 87 • QUEZON AVENUE 374-1250 TO 59 • SHAW 535-4944, 533-6349, 533-8375, 533-1263 PASIG 672-1612 to 14, 672-1486 • ALABANG 771-1206 to 09 • NORTH EDSA 374-9992 to 97, 374-9963 • MANILA 564-0129 • CEBU (032) 234-0426 to 29 • PAMPANGA (045) 963-3333, (045) 860-2000 • DAVAO (082) 300-7777, (082) 235-3811 • DAGUPAN (075) 523-7777, (075) 523-1835, (075) 515-5577 • ILOILO (033) 329-2888, (033) 329-2222 BACOLOD (034) 708-2489

KILL Switch

Crime In Caloocan

Raymond Tribdino

A BROCHURE I READ SOMEWHERE DESCRIBED Caloocan as a city like no other in the Philippines. Its growth is relentless. As is the crime rate. No other city in our country has the same brand of blatant criminality as the birthplace of our freedom where the proletarian Andres Bonifacio screamed for independence against the Spanish colonizers.

I tasted Caloocan's reputation for crime last July 17 after a philanthropic activity at Don Bosco in Tondo. Nissan Motor Philippines Inc and Total Philippines had just cooperated to donate a couple of the latest generation engines to the Don Bosco Youth Center. As I left the event on route to Greenhills, I decided that the better route would be via C3 into Caloocan. But my fuel gauge was about to read "E" and my wallet was equally empty.

So I looked for an AT machine to make a withdrawal. The nearest one had no parking available, so I parked my car one block down, at the corner of 8th St. and Rizal Ave.

In less than 10 minutes away from the car I fell prey to the dreaded Bukas Kotse gang, the thugs smashed the passenger side window of my Nissan Terrano and got to the cargo hold in the back and took my laptop bag.

Stolen were my laptop, mobile phone, portable hard drive and other little but valuable things. I lost half of my corporate life as the information stored on that computer was more valuable than the laptop itself.

But the most valuable treasures were the pictures of my family stored on the portable hard drive. I brought the hard drive to have our latest family trip to Baguio printed at a photo developing store.

I parked my car near the Cycle Plus store, a hangout and logistic center for scooteristas and motorcyclists in general. In fact, as I was heading for the bank I passed by the store to take a peek at suitable tires for a set of Excel Takasago Motard rims I was about to install on my Suzuki DR. I didn't buy anything as I was rushing to the ATM.

The queue was longer than usual. I told myself, it was a Monday, just after pay day to justify in my head the longer-than-usual wait. I thought I vaguely heard the alarm of my Terrano go off. Thinking back, I didn't seem to pay attention because at that moment a noisy jeepney passed by, and I thought it was just the booming exhaust that triggered the alarm.

As I approached my vehicle I noticed the window on the passenger side looked a bit too clear. When I got around the vehicle, it was gone. The laminated safety glass was scattered on the floor and on the seats.

When I proceeded to the Substation 2, which was just along 8th Ave., I found out from the officers on duty that I was the 4th victim of the crime. The modus operandi is simple. The thieves first kick the tires to make the car alarm sound. That is also to distract bystanders and to check if the owner comes back to his vehicle.

Then they try to forcibly open the door by unlatching the key set or lifting the lock. If that doesn't work, they break open the window. Finally, they search the car for valuables. All this evil work in less than 5 minutes, and in the middle of the day. (According to the policemen of Substation 2, shops close at this time in the area, and Caloocan's finest are on lunch break.)

I was told by a police reporter friend that Mayor Echiverri has his hands tied down on curbing criminality in his city. He is helpless against these criminals because some elements in his police force are in touch with the criminal syndicates. Whether true or not is yet to be seen. What is sure is that we all need to be careful--whether in Caloocan or Quezon City. Mandaluyong or Makati.

To warn everyone I posted my experience over the Internet and warned everyone just how dangerous Caloocan is. There are a lot of lessons in this episode so glaring I need not expound on it. I can only imagine that my laptop is in some sleazy pawnshop now.

From the dozen or so feedback from last month's Kill Switch on Bayani Fernando's "Helmet Sticker Law", here's one from Dan Yatco: "I appreciate your article Raymond regarding the Criminalizing motorcyclists. Well said and I hope those people from MMDA will think of other more sensible laws to curb criminality. At least you were able to voice out our sentiments as law abiding riders. More power."

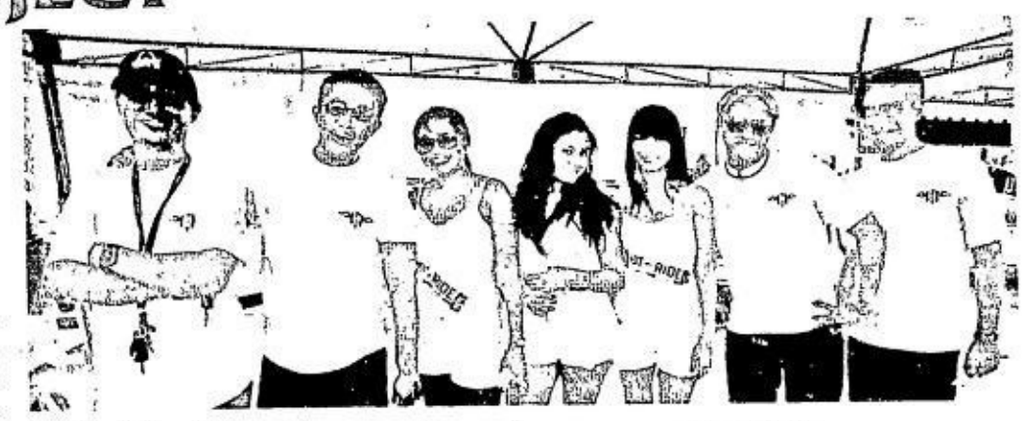
Second one comes from Lino Dollano: "*Si* Bayani Fernando *hindi nag-iisip. Kami may tatlong motorsiklo. Ibig ba sabihin ng* helmet law *niya tatlong* helmet *din ang kailangan namin? Ano siya sineswerte?*"

Here's a really funny one from Robert Adriano of Las Pinas. "Soon we can also make stickers of Bayani Fernando and put them on the face mask of our helmets. Just make sure you cut the eyes open so you can see in front. That way you can see the world through Fernando's eyes. *Makitid*. Also you will understand how he thinks. *Walang utak*."

Fernando's spin doctors could have sent this praise-mail in his behalf. It sounds so dubiously corporate. It is from someone named Erwin Chen from Binondo. "Mr. Fernando's idea of the helmet sticker to identify motorcyclists is an excellent one because it can scare away criminals. Since there is a helmet law that does not allow riding without a helmet, then there can be complete control over criminals. This is one law that should be passed immediately." (*Galing naman*!-RBT)

And a lady, Wilma Silvestre from San Andres Bukid, writes, "*Tama si* Fernando, *dapat may* identifying mark *yung mga nag-momotor. Kasi mahirap mahuli at madaling lumusot. Pero hindi naman sa* helmet. If that is how he thinks, *ang mga nagmomotor dapat ilagay na lang* "criminal" and "plain citizen" *na lang. Mas madali pa makahuli ang pulis*."

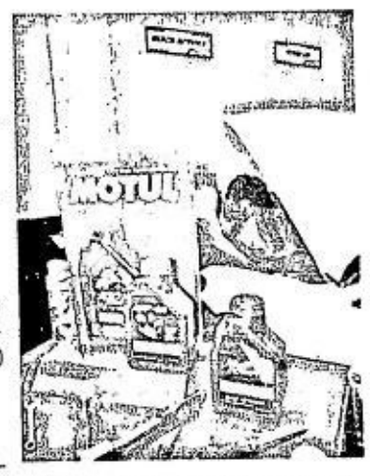
Please send your comments to:
killswitch.roadtalk@gmail.com.



'Hit My Ride' searches for new champ

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF ITS LAUNCH EARLY this year, the hit reality TV show 'Hit My Ride' has wound down to a climactic conclusion. Audiences were hooked as every episode gradually revealed who among the four finalists made it to winning the P500,000 makeover of their cars, courtesy of the country's premier tuners led by Sammy Liuson of Concept One wheels and Nitto tires, bright eyed Benedict Go of Xenon Bulbs; suspension specialist Arvin Lim of Bilstein and H&R; and the king of bodykits Atoy Llave, otherwise known as the Aftermarket Mafia. Hosted by popular radio disk jockey Sam Y G, Hit My Ride is the country's first reality TV style automotive show with a twist of 'American Idol'. It is an offshoot of the "Hit Rides" radio show broadcast over Hit 99.5 FM Wednesdays, 8 to 9 p.m. Among the pool of aspirants, only the wild and wacky antics of four guys managed to get the nod of the Mafiosi: Carlo aka David Lame, a pathetic magician; Teejay, aka Jumping Jack Crash, who earned his moniker when he jumped from his car and broke his leg; Rommel, aka agogo boy, who gyrated like a belly dancer and Jhic, a self-confessed closet fan of superheroes. All four were subjected to a variety of humiliating dares and jaw-dropping stunts which saw one of them dancing on top of a footbridge along Quezon Avenue, with the other smashing his car to bits using a baseball bat. When the smoke of competition cleared, the lucky chap who won the coveted price was Jhic, who is currently having his Ford Lynx pimped and given a second lease on life with a P500,000 make over. With the start of the second season, the process is repeated once again as the Mafia hunts down the next lucky dude to make TV history by becoming the second 'Hit My Ride' champion. 'Hit My Ride' is a production of Sicomms, the same outfit behind the popular automotive show 'Auto Extreme'. It airs every Wednesday night 9 to 10 p.m. on Solar Sports Channel. Don't be square, be hip and watch the new episodes of 'Hit My Ride's' second season. Stay tuned to Hit99.5 and 'Auto Extreme' or log on to www.hitmyride.com to know the next call-in auditions.

The true synthetic oil



IN THE PURSUIT OF PROVIDING CONSUMERS WITH THE BEST value for money, Motul created the H-TEC 100 Fully Synthetic Oil. As an industry pioneer in synthetic oils and backed by the expertise of its research laboratories in Europe and Asia, Motul H-TEC 100 10W40 was developed to provide lubrication for modern day sophisticated engines, while assuring fuel savings and automotive efficiency. H-TEC 100 is oil with excellent anti-oxidation properties, preventing premature thickening and aging due to thermal stress. Its high performance anti-wear additive increases engine life duration and decreases wear by reducing engine internal friction, resulting in smooth and light acceleration. H-TEC 100 is suitable for standard leaded or unleaded gasoline, LPG powered cars, and for city and/or highway driving conditions. Motul H-TEC 100 10W40 retails for P430 a liter. "We positioned this product in such range to introduce the performance of a true synthetic oil to all motorists," relates Carlos Gono of Autoplus Sportzentrium, the exclusive distributor of Motul oil and lubricants in the Philippines. Payless Automotive Center, an automotive tuning and under chassis repair expert, is a proud dealer of Motul Oil and Lubricants. Located along Libis, Quezon City, Payless Automotive Center is a one stop shop for anything automotive. Autoplus Sportzentrium is open for product assistance and/or dealer inquiries and can be reached at 233 Edsa (southbound), Mandaluyong City or at 726-3066, 726-0399 and e-mail info@auto-plus.com.

Toyota to introduce all-new Vios in August

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES Corp (TMPC) brings a new sense of feeling and vision with the all new Vios passenger car. The introduction of this progressive vehicle that has evolved from its predecessor is a remarkable addition to Toyota's vehicle line up. With its new developments in both its interior and exterior features, the all new Vios boasts a more ergonomic yet sporty design. The 1.5-liter and 1.3-liter automatic and manual transmission variants are equipped with more enhanced safety and performance features that will surely provide a comfortable yet blissful experience. The All New Vios will be available in the Philippine market by the end of August 2007.

Global history

Initially developed for the Asian market, the Vios, also known as Belta in Japan, was introduced in the region in 2003. Though there are different labels for the Vios, its sole purpose was to provide the costumers the quality of a progressively designed sedan in a practically compact car. The vehicle was unveiled in Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, China, and Japan.

The word Vios is derived from the Latin word "vio" meaning to "move forward." Indeed, the Vios lived up to its name when its advent in the Asian region was such a success. Toyota seized the opportunity and took it to the next level by introducing the Vios globally. The Vios was unveiled in the United States as the Yaris Sedan in 2006.

Vios in RP

The first generation model of the Vios was launched in the Philippines in 2003. Ever since, it has yielded an overwhelmingly positive response of being the market leader for the small passenger car, mid and low segments. Its fuel efficient and powerful engine led to its success in bagging several awards including being the best subcompact sedan from various local car award groups and the 2006 Department of Energy (DOE) Fuel Economy Run.

In November 2005, the Vios was further enhanced with smarter features that helped the model attain an unrivaled position of being the best selling passenger car in the Philippines for 2006. For the same year, garnering 9,406 units sold, it became the second best selling vehicle next to the Innova.

The All New Vios will be locally manufactured in the Toyota Motor Philippines Corp plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Exterior

The all-new Vios is an innovative evolution of its previous body with its urban sleek design fit for a modern lifestyle. The exterior is revolutionary not only for being a head turner but also for its functional roles. The lower and longer body uses aerodynamics to its maximum advantage and its longer wheelbase contributes to its stability.

Other features that make it more stylish and functional include the integrated turn signal lamps, electronic retractable outside rear view mirrors, larger surface mirrors, a printed type antenna, and rear reflectors.

Interior

Thanks to the well-designed cabin, the all new Vios is more spacious and comfortable. The driver can cruise comfortably behind the wheel in the ergonomic seat now with a lever-type height adjuster, the gate type shift lever, and an electronically powered steering wheel, ideal for both city and long-distance driving. The 1.5-liter's center-mounted optitron gauges make it easy-to-view. As for the 1.3-liter variants, their analog meters are also advantageously placed in the center. In addition, the G grade is now equipped with a Multi Information Display (MID) which conveniently projects data on current driving conditions for the driver's reference.

The interior maximizes space with an abundance of utility spaces for both driver and passenger. The ingenious addition to the all-new Vios G-leather variant is the versatility of its backseats, capable to be reclined to a full 180° angle, making it roomier for more cargo.

What makes the all new Vios a more desirable vehicle is the impressive sound system. The G and E variants boast a 2DIN Integrated Type with a CD and MP3 for its head unit and the G grade pumps up the volume further with its 6 speakers.

Performance

Beneath its aesthetic quality lies a better creation. The All new Vios comes with a powerful 1.5-liter 1NZ-FE 16-valve DOHC VVT-i engine. With the VVT-i technology managing intake valve timing, the engine ably yields a maximum output of 107hp/6,000rpm, and a maximum torque of 142Nm/4,200rpm. Power is balanced by comfort with the front McPherson struts and rear torsion beam suspension. A small minimum turning radius of 4.9 meters is a plus for maneuverability. Front and rear disc brakes are also made standard for the G grade for ensured stopping power and enhanced safety.

Safety

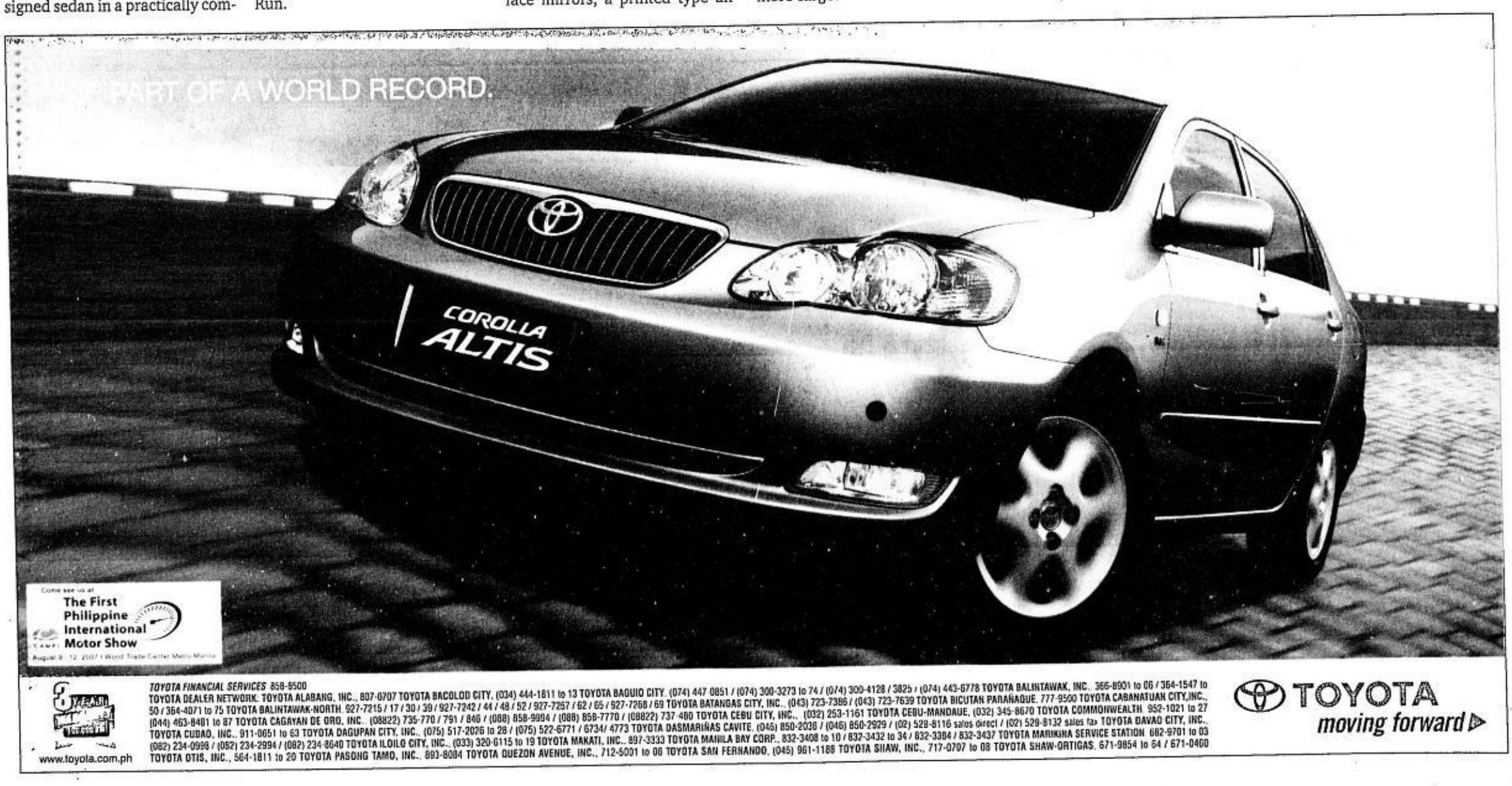
Safety is made a priority in the all new Vios which now comes with dual front SRS airbags for the G Grade. The Toyota GOA safety body is designed to distribute the impact of a crash throughout the whole body. Together with this, the pedestrian injury reduction technology helps reduce injury for pedestrians with impact absorbing areas around the fender, cowl panel, and hood.

For grades G and E, ABS is integrated in the vehicle coupled with Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist (BA).

Variants

The All New Vios is offered in five variants: 1.5G-leather automatic transmission, 1.5G automatic and manual transmission, the 1.3E manual transmission, and the 1.3J manual transmission. It comes in seven shades-super white, medium silver metallic, red mica metallic, beige metallic, grayish blue metallic, black, and silver metallic.

With the all new Vios, experience a beautiful moment. Visit your nearest Toyota Dealer for more information.



Ask GIBS

Mechanic-at-large Giby Yalung answers your most pressing automotive problems

Dear Gibs:

I am planning to buy a car next year. What are the pros and cons of having a diesel powered engine vs gasoline? Is it true that diesel powered ones cost more on maintenance? And is it true that a car consumes more gas than with diesel?

Dear Cecile,

It's not true that diesel is more expensive to maintain, unless you own a utility vehicle such as trucks, vans and buses. In fact, in Europe, more than 60 percent of vehicles are diesel powered. Yes, it's true that gasoline eats more fuel especially when it comes to the same engine size. Example, a 2000 cc Innova eats more fuel than the 2500cc diesel version. However, the power difference of the gasoline engine is stronger than the diesel variant. But since diesel is cheaper than gasoline, it makes it all worthwhile. On the average, a 2.5-liter diesel would go 10 kms per liter vs a gasoline engine with a smaller 2.0 would only go 5 kms to the liter. That's why more people still enjoy the economy and savings of a diesel.

The maintenance of the old diesel engines, like the Toyota Tamaraw, Mercedes and old Isuzu and Mitsubishi Pajero of the '80s and '90s are expensive to maintain, but they are very economical and durable. In the long run, for every tune up of a diesel, it will cost around twice compared to the gasoline version. However, the fuel savings you get is enormous.

If you want economy and can afford the price of a more expensive vehicle, go for the diesel. But if you're on a tight budget, maybe the gasoline engine would still be just as economical. Thanks for asking.

Dear Gibs,

A few months ago, I bought a set of brand new tires (Japanese brand) with a single direction arrow rotation, and was perfect till I experienced a flat tire and had it vulcanized in one of those roadside shops. When the tire was patched and installed, the tire started creating a loud humming sound all the way to my office. I decided to bring it to a nearby gas station and the inspecting attendant found out that the tire was placed inverted from the opposite direction of the tire rotation arrow. I had it put back to the correct position and it then ran quietly. My question is, did that damage my tire? Why was there that annoying sound in the first place?

Ricky Castro

Dear Ricky,

The single direction arrow rotation tire is a new design that is very popular among high-end passenger and performance cars, SUVs and other vehicles. Its one-direction rotation was designed to create a flow that disperses water during high-speed driving in the rain to prevent hydroplaning (hydroplaning literally makes the car skim on the wet road, making the tire lose its grip and cause the car to spin out of control. The single direction design also creates less noise on the asphalt or concrete road as the pulses of the thread pattern cancel out unwanted harshness and vibration that often leads to driver stress during long trips.

By inverting the rotation, the forward going to reverse, the whole aerodynamic and foot print of the tire is messed up, creating a more stress on the thread pattern. This, in turn, makes the air rushing by at great speed "hum", thus the annoying sound you heard earlier. It's a good thing you had it returned to the proper rotating position really soon. If left unchecked, this would have worn your expensive tire out, or might have even caused an accident. Thanks for asking.

Gibs

For more questions, just e-mail askgibs.roadtalk@gmail.com.

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Hyundai Dagupan (075) 522 6898
Hyundai Dasmariñas (02) 529 6137, (046) 850-2958, 850-1093, 850 3442
Hyundai Laoag (077) 791 8881, (077) 761-8888
Hyundai La Union (072) 712 8887 to 88, (0922) 310-2310
Hyundai Lipa City Manila Line: 520 6260 Batangas Line: (043) 757-0348, (043) 312-3998
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Hyundai gets Green Ratings from YAHOO!

THE YAHOO! AUTOS GREEN CENTER ranks the 2007 Hyundai Accent, Elantra, Sonata, Tiburon and Tucson models as five of the top 100 "Green" Cars for 2007. The vehicles listed online at http://autos.yahoo.com/green_center/ were ranked on a scale of 1 to 100 based on the environmental impact of each vehicle. The Yahoo! Autos Green Center currently ranks more than 450 models in-market in the United States.

On this year's "green" cars list, two Hyundai models listed by Yahoo! Autos ranked in the top 20. The 2007 Hyundai Accent GLS scored 75 points. The Accent is certified as an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle, delivering up to 37 mpg (automatic transmission/highway). The 1.6-liter dual overhead cam (DOHC) in-line four-cylinder engine that features four valves per cylinder with Continuously Variable Valve Timing (CVVT) give the engine a very broad power-band, coupled with high fuel efficiency and low emissions.

The 2007 Hyundai Elantra scored 76 points. The Elantra is certified as a Partial Zero Emission Vehicle and is as clean as many hybrid electric vehicles. Elantra achieves this certification with its advanced 2.0-liter in-line four-cylinder engine that features DOHC and CVVT, to ensure improved fuel economy.

"This recognition of our clean, fuel-efficient powertrains demonstrates our commitment to the environment, just as our leadership in lifesaving safety technologies like electronic stability control (ESC) demonstrates our commitment to the safety of our owners," said John Krafcik, vice president of strategic planning and product development, Hyundai Motor America. "More and more people are seeing Hyundai as a smart choice, and the Green Ratings from Yahoo! Autos reinforce that."

Yahoo! Autos' "Green Ratings" measure a vehicle's environmental friendliness on a scale of 1 to 100, and factors in tailpipe pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, fuel economy and the manufacturing process. The "greener" a vehicle is, the higher its "Green Rating" will be. Numerous major environmental pollutants associated with a motor vehicle are covered by the "Green Rating," including: greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide; fine particles (particulate matter); nitrogen oxides; hydrocarbons; and carbon monoxide.

Yahoo! Autos' Green Center provides consumers with a comprehensive, unbiased source of information, resources and community about green vehicles, including all technologies. The Green Center brings together industry information from experts as well as consumer-generated content from the Yahoo! network.

SUBARU cars are the perfect vehicles for multi-sport outdoor enthusiasts.

Executive cycling: The new corporate sport

A GROWING NUMBER OF Filipino adults are adopting the multi-sport lifestyle. These are individuals who seek the physical, mental and emotional challenges of cycling, running, swimming and mountaineering, and other sports that incorporate these disciplines. These enthusiasts strive to keep physically fit, challenge themselves in multiple disciplines and love the outdoors as well. They are men and women in their mid-20s to their 50s, and nearly all of them are employed or otherwise engaged in full-time careers as corporate executives, IT professionals, doctors, attorneys, architects, traders, accountants, entrepreneurs or business owners.

For most of us, the serious pursuit of fitness and adventure ends by the time we enter professional life. Even for many accomplished interscholastic athletes, the demands of work, career advancement and family responsibilities eventually force staying in shape into the back burner. This is the point where conventional wisdom suggests we throw in the towel and forsake any thoughts of recapturing the thrill and satisfaction of athletic pursuits.

CARS, SHADES, AND BIKES. A Mid-Season Fellowship Night for participants, teams and sponsors of XRC '07 was held July 20. Subaru GM Nicky Mariano, Elite Multi-Sport director Raul Ylanan and Spyder Optics' Lal Chatlani enjoy a light moment.

For the new multi-sport enthusiasts however, the notion of being "all washed up" is unacceptable. By exercising discipline, setting the right priorities and managing time skillfully, it can indeed be done. And this attitude is contagious. We see evidence of this in the ever-increasing number of entrants in 5K and 10K runs, duathlons, Sunday morning cycling criteriums, multi-day adventure races, Milo marathons, Olympic distance triathlons, cross-country mountain bike races, and on and on. What this reflects is a major lifestyle shift for a very large number of Filipino adults-a phenomenon of this generation-consciously embracing active pursuits that challenge physical endurance and also challenge the opinion that working people are a sedentary bunch.

As the multi-sport segment continues to grow, its adherents seek more frequent challenges, in varying venues, with new features and fresh formats. They devote those precious few hours to training and preparation, looking forward to each new opportunity to set a new personal best.

And although this trend has not gone unnoticed by major corporate brands, it fully deserves to enjoy greater exposure alongside other mainstream sports.

Why cycling?

The surge in popularity of cycling among multi-sport enthusiasts stems from its accessibility and practicality. You don't need a pool or mountain range to enjoy your workout, and yet you free yourself from the confines of an enclosed, artificially lit and ventilated room. You can ride to your destination, and there are many local cycling-friendly areas within a few minutes ride from anywhere in the metropolis.

The recent popularity of spinning classes at major fitness clubs has also added a new group of hard-core spinners making the switch to the outdoors. The equipment is relatively affordable, and special instruction is unnecessary. And for the speed demons out there, cycling is more than capable of providing sufficient velocity thrills.

2007 Spyder XRC Series

For 2007, the series is composed of four road races, each one ranging from 100 to 200 km in length, staged in established road cycling destinations in Luzon and are spaced evenly throughout the year. Teams and riders in the competition will primarily come from the Executive category, and they are, as the name suggests, working professionals or entrepreneurs between the ages of 28 and 55. Pro, former pro or national cyclists are not eligible for this category. Teams are composed of 9 regular members and 6 reserve riders.

Executive class cycling is not new. There are existing teams with established memberships. They are well-organized, and compete regularly in local races and leagues. In addition, many of them have commercial sponsors who provide them with either partial or full financial and material support. Riders train for events in the limited time they have, but are no less committed to winning.

With the introduction of the XRC '07 series, executives now have an alternative athletic pursuit. More and more are attracted to the fitness benefits and competitive challenges of propelling a human-powered, two-wheeled machine at speed. Equally impressive is the skill with which these would-be Lance Armstrongs balance the demands of family life, workplace stress and cycling. "These men and women's dedication to their chosen sport is no less passionate than their colleagues who take up golf or badminton", say XRC '07 organizers Edmund Mangaser, Jojo Limpo and Raul Ylanan. Cycling has a rich history in the Philippines dating back to the 1950s, with a number of past riders becoming household names. Executive cycling opens the door to enthusiasts who used to be relegated to watching races on television, but can now vie for honors in a well-organized, professionally run racing series.

Presented by sport optics brand Spyder and Men's Health magazine, the XRC '07 Executive Cycling series is expected to fuel the resurgence of cycling in the country. Other series supporters include Subaru, the official vehicle of XRC '07, Coca-Cola, Fitness First and Revicon Max.

Saturday, July 28, 2007 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 230 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Grade/ high school books full of errors in health content, says ex-DOH chief
NEWS / A2

Fires in Europe, floods in Asia; forests razed
WORLD / A22

Read all the news behind the news in 'Between Deadlines'
OPINION / A13

THE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS

Last words from slain judge: This is part of job

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—"THIS IS PART OF THE JOB."

These were Judge Orlando Velasco's last words to his fellow judges as he was wheeled to the emergency room of the Silliman Medical Center (SMC) here after being shot Wednesday by unidentified men.

LAST WORDS/ A4

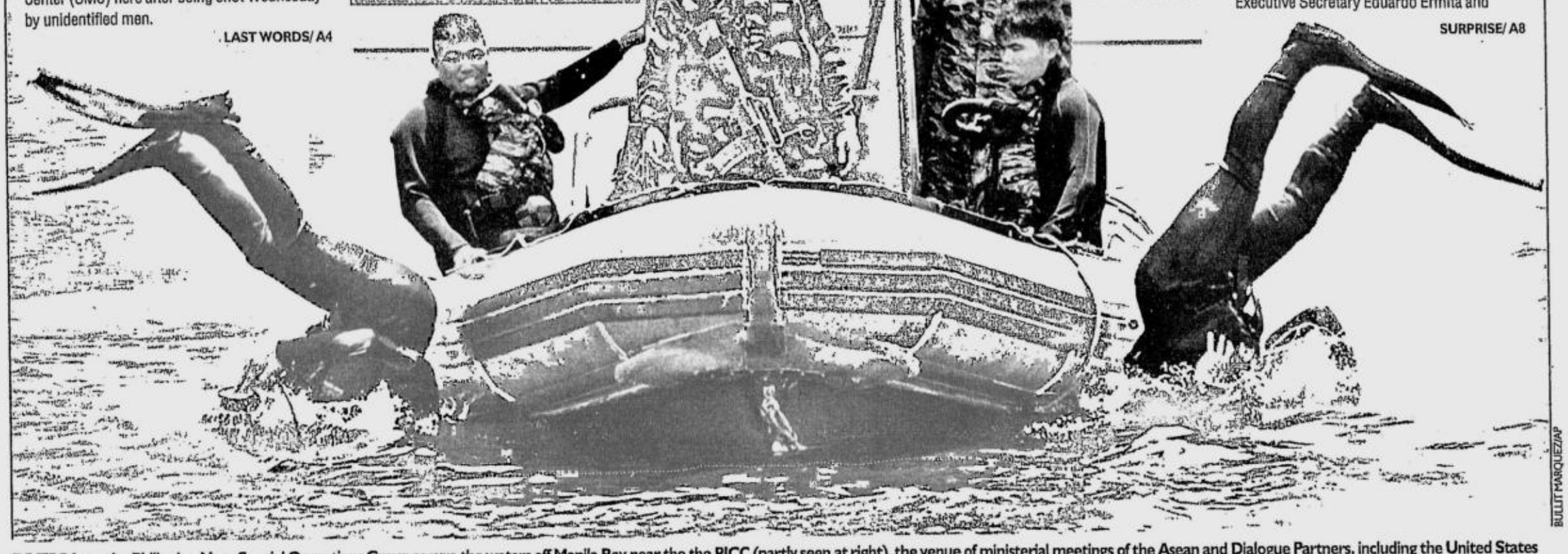
Surprise move: Palace 'transfers' Neri to ChEd

By Michael Lim Ubac and Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY made a major change in her economic team, "temporarily" moving the country's chief economist, Romulo Neri, to the Commission on Higher Education (ChEd).

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and

SURPRISE/ A8



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

DIVERS from the Philippine Navy Special Operations Group secure the waters off Manila Bay near the the PICC (partly seen at right), the venue of ministerial meetings of the Asean and Dialogue Partners, including the United States and Russia, starting on Monday followed by the 14th Asean Regional Forum scheduled for Aug. 1-2. Asean's main agenda is the draft of the first-ever charter, which could turn the Asean bloc into an EU-style grouping. *(Story on Page A2.)*

GMA delays Basilan attack

D-Day expected on Tuesday; 5,000 troops dig in

By Julie S. Alipala, Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AMID international calls for restraint, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday held back for three days a planned military assault against Moro gunmen on Basilan island accused of beheading 10 Philippine Marines in an ambush.

"We expect D-day on Tuesday," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon told reporters after a military-police command conference at a military camp in Zamboanga City chaired by Ms Arroyo.

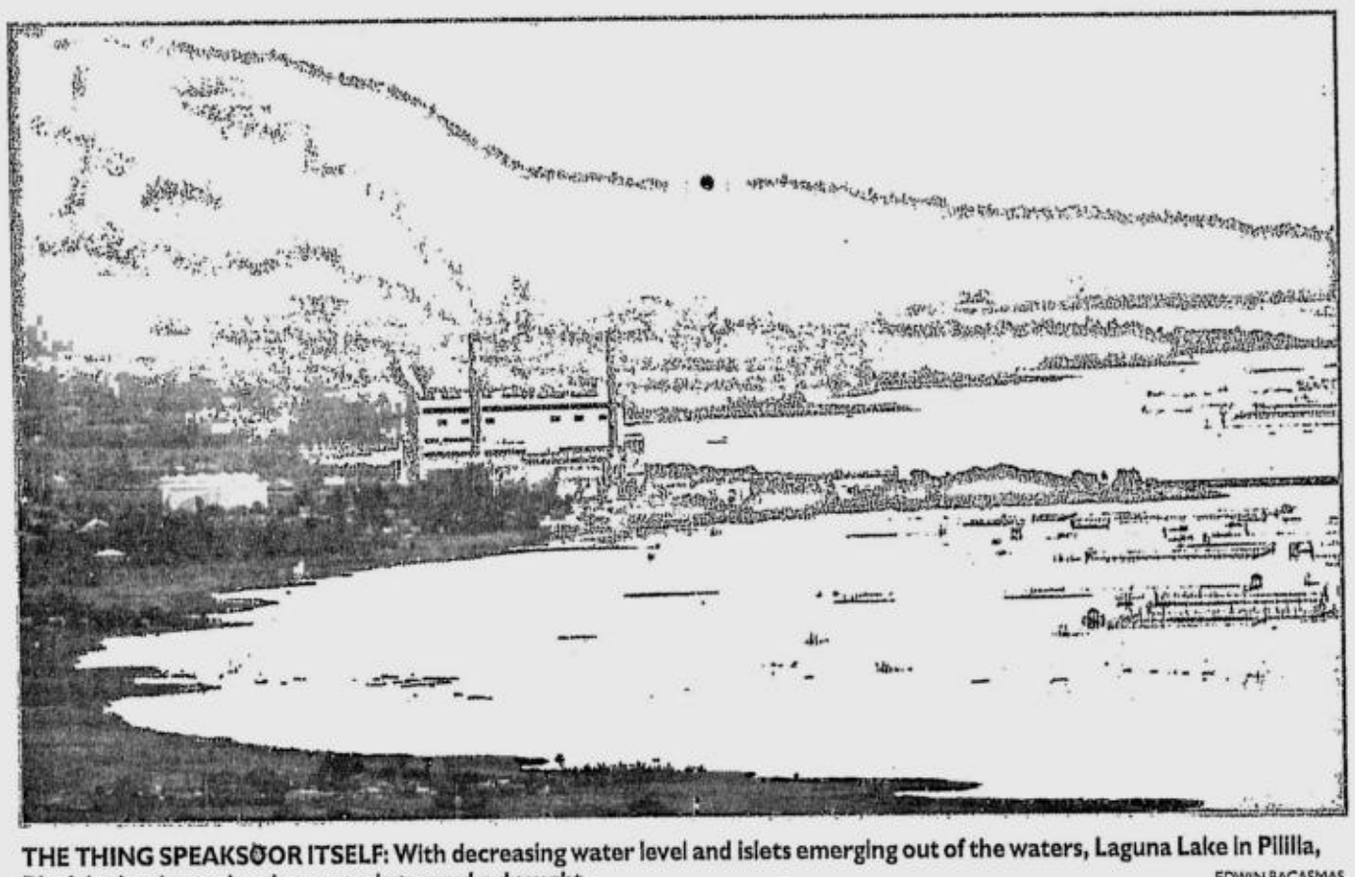
In military parlance, D-Day refers to the beginning of an attack.

"We must go full force and steadfast and uncompromising in punishing the beheaders. The more we allow this to pass without getting (anyone) punished, we will be encouraging more beheading," he said.

Ms Arroyo, who arrived in Zamboanga wearing a camouflage fatigue vest, issued the order as her government prepared to host Asia's biggest security conference next week to be attended by ministers from 27 countries, including the United States, Russia, China and members of the European Union.

At the command conference, held behind closed doors, Ms Arroyo gave the joint government-Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ceasefire committee

GMA DELAYS/ A10



THE THING SPEAKS FOR ITSELF: With decreasing water level and islets emerging out of the waters, Laguna Lake in Pililla, Rizal, is clearly moving dangerously toward a drought.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Angat water supply for NCR residents cut

By TJ Burgonio and Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY'S WATER AUTHORITY last night decided to reduce the water allocation coming from Angat Dam and intended for farms in Central Luzon and residents in Metro Manila to further stretch the use of water until the rains come.

The cutback will start on Monday and last the "next few weeks," the National Water Resources Board said.

Allocations to farms will be cut down from 32 cubic meters/second to 25 cu m/sec, while those for residents in the metropolis will be reduced from 43 cu m/sec to 41 cu m/sec.

"We're cutting back marginally the allocation to farmers so we can stretch the available water to service farmers longer," NWRB executive director Ramon Alikpala said in a phone interview after a multi-agency meeting.

Since the farmers in Bulacan and Pampanga had planted their crops before the dry spell, the NWRB "had to find a way to stretch the water and salvage the crops" before the turbines get crippled, he added.

"We're also cutting back marginally

ANGAT WATER/ A8

Marcoses: We own a third of GMA TV shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE ELDEST CHILD OF THE LATE DICtator Ferdinand Marcos has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to suspend the listing and initial public offer (IPO) of shares by the GMA Network Inc. on Monday, over the allegedly doubtful ownership of the shares held by one of the network's three majority shareholders, Gilberto Duavit.

However, SEC Commissioner Juanita Cueto, who received the letter of Imee Marcos last night, said the listing of the GMA television network would push through as scheduled on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday.

MARCOSES/ A4

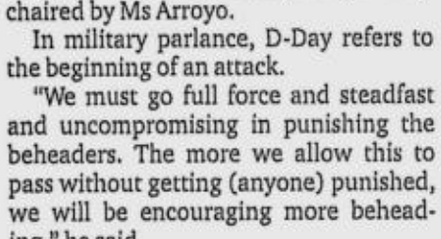
Alvarez named 'minerals czar' under GMA

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

FORMER ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Heherson Alvarez may now be called the "minerals czar," having been appointed chair of the government-owned and -controlled Philippine Mining Development Corp. (PMDC).

Alvarez yesterday welcomed his appointment and said he was looking for-

ALVAREZ/ A8



Astronauts fly to space drunk, says report

CAPE CANAVERAL—ON AT least two occasions, US astronauts were allowed to fly after flight surgeons and other astronauts warned they were so drunk that they posed a flight-safety risk, an aviation weekly reported Thursday.

ASTRONAUTS/ A10

No surprise: AFP in court minus Jonas

By Jerome Aning

AS THEY HAD EARLIER INDICATED, MILITary authorities showed up yesterday at the Court of Appeals' first hearing on the case of the missing activist Jonas Burgos without him.

"We regret that we cannot produce him," Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Cabotaje-Tang told the appellate court's Eighth Division, which is chaired by Justice Remedios Salazar Fernando.

She said the respondents in the petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by Jonas'

NO SURPRISE/ A6

ARLYN DELA CRUZ

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER: Magdalo's hardcore officers led by Trillanes hold a boodle fight to mark the Oakwood's 4th.

FOUR YEARS AFTER OAKWOOD

Life, romance go on behind bars for Magdalo detainees

By Fe Zamora
(Last of two parts)

IT'S STILL THE SAME OLD STORY FOR the detained men of the Oakwood mutiny as time goes by.

In spite of the hardships of life behind bars, they find love and romance.

Detention has not stifled romance. The bachelors married their girlfriends who remained loyal. Others have even found new girlfriends—who would eventually become their wives—from among their regular visitors.

i-TEAM SPECIAL REPORT
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

"One romance even involves a detainee and a daughter of a general," a wife of another detainee told the INQUIRER.

Regular visitors to the detention centers, whether in Fort Bonifacio, in Villamor Air Base or at the Fort San Felipe in

LIFE, ROMANCE/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2007

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY SCHATZI GUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/27/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Asean nears landmark charter

SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS are close to agreeing on their first-ever charter, a landmark move diplomats say could turn the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc into a European Union-style rules-based grouping.

But there appears to be one problem—the 10 Asean members cannot quite agree over sanctions to be imposed on members who break the rules.

Asean, formed in 1967, has decided to draft a charter to become a more rules-based organization with better bargaining power in international negotiations.

A high-level Asean task force has completed about 95 percent of the work and plans to submit a final draft to the foreign ministers of Asean members Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam at a meeting in Manila on Monday.

The final document will be submitted to the Asean leaders in November at their annual meeting in Singapore.

Claro Cristobal, an Asean conference spokesperson, said diplomats from the task force labored from late Thursday into the early hours of Friday but failed to resolve differences on the human rights issue.

Human rights issue

Diplomatic sources said a special task force drafting the charter has included a provision that would call for the setting up of a commission to tackle the issue of human rights.

But Burma (Myanmar) has objected to the proposal, thus, delaying its completion, diplomats said Friday.

The proposal is among the few remaining contentious issues holding up completion of a charter for Asean, the diplomats said.

But Egoy Bans, spokesperson for the regional advocacy group Free Burma Coalition-Philippines, welcomed the rights commission, calling it a small step forward for Asean.

"Hopefully, once we have this rights organ under the charter, Asean countries can begin engaging Myanmar on the issue of human rights," Bans told AFP.

A draft of the charter, seen by The Associated Press on Wednesday, calls for the "respect of fundamental freedoms, the promotion and protection of human rights and the promotion of social justice" but made no mention of a human rights body.

The Philippines will host this year's 40th Asean Ministerial Meeting.

Police have tightened security around the venues of the summit.

The venues are the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) and Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

"It's all systems go. We are 100 percent ready," Philippine National Police (PNP) Deputy Chief for Administration Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said yesterday.

More than 6,500 security personnel have been deployed to secure the summit.

Some 40 Asean ministers and an estimated 1500 delegates from 26 other countries are attending the summit. *AFP, Alcuin Papa, Reuters, AP*

Villar a hostage of admin senators, says Pimentel

THE BATTLE FOR THE BLUE Ribbon Committee could drive opposition senators back into each others arms.

The administration bloc's threat to withdraw support from Senate President Manuel Villar if he names an opposition senator to head the Senate blue ribbon committee is expected to spur the opposition to regroup as a majority bloc in the Senate.

"If that happens, the opposition would probably lead to that (opposition unity) in the Senate. That will be good for the Senate," said Sen. Francis Escudero one of three opposition senators who broke from their colleagues to support Villar in a majority coalition led by administration senators.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said that the administration would take back their support of Villar if the Blue Ribbon was given to the opposition. Defensor suggested that Villar leave the Blue Ribbon chairmanship open to allow administration Sen. Joker Arroyo to stay on in a holdover capacity.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that he and the other seven opposition senators that decided to remain in the minority would welcome back Villar and his opposition allies Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano and Jinggoy Estrada.

"I pity Manny because he is treated like a hostage by the administration. I wish he had listened to the advice of his allies in the opposition. Anyway, it's not too late. Even in the bible, the prodigal son is forgiven," said Pimentel.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Defensor's threat showed President Macapagal-Arroyo's hand in trying to subvert the results of the May 14 elections where the administration senators were thumped by the opposition 7 to 3.

"We can see clearly now that Malacañang is interfering if not dictating on the coalition of Senate President Villar. This is why his claim that he is still from the opposition is a great deception. I hope our three colleagues will wake up to the truth that they were only used by him to get the Senate presidency. If that is the kind of leader we have in the Senate, it's worthless," said Lacson.

In a speech before members of Kilosbayan, Sen. Mar Roxas lamented what he described as "convoluted political arrangements where once again the people's will is being thwarted."

"The Senate Presidency and the committee leadership is now in the hands of a coalition even as the last elections clearly ordained the opposition to lead it and direct its agenda," said Roxas.

Condi's coming, but not for Asean ministers' meeting

By Tarra Quismundo

RICE

SHE MAY MISS NEXT WEEK'S GATHERing of foreign ministers in Manila, but US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is definitely coming to the Philippines.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday that after her commitments in the Middle East, Rice will visit Manila to hold bilateral talks with Philippine officials.

News of her forthcoming visit came a day after the Asean National Organizing Committee expressed its understanding of Rice's decision to forego her participation in the Asean for a trip to the Middle East with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates from July 30 to Aug. 2, the same schedule of the Manila meetings.

"After their efforts in the Middle East, she assured me that she will be here," Romulo told reporters, relaying Rice's recent call to him about her Manila trip's cancelation.

"She said, while she may not be able to attend [meetings] on Aug. 1 and 2, she will be in the Philippines after this trip [to the Middle East]... And so Asean understands and she has assured that she will be here," said Romulo, chair of this year's Asean Ministerial Meeting.

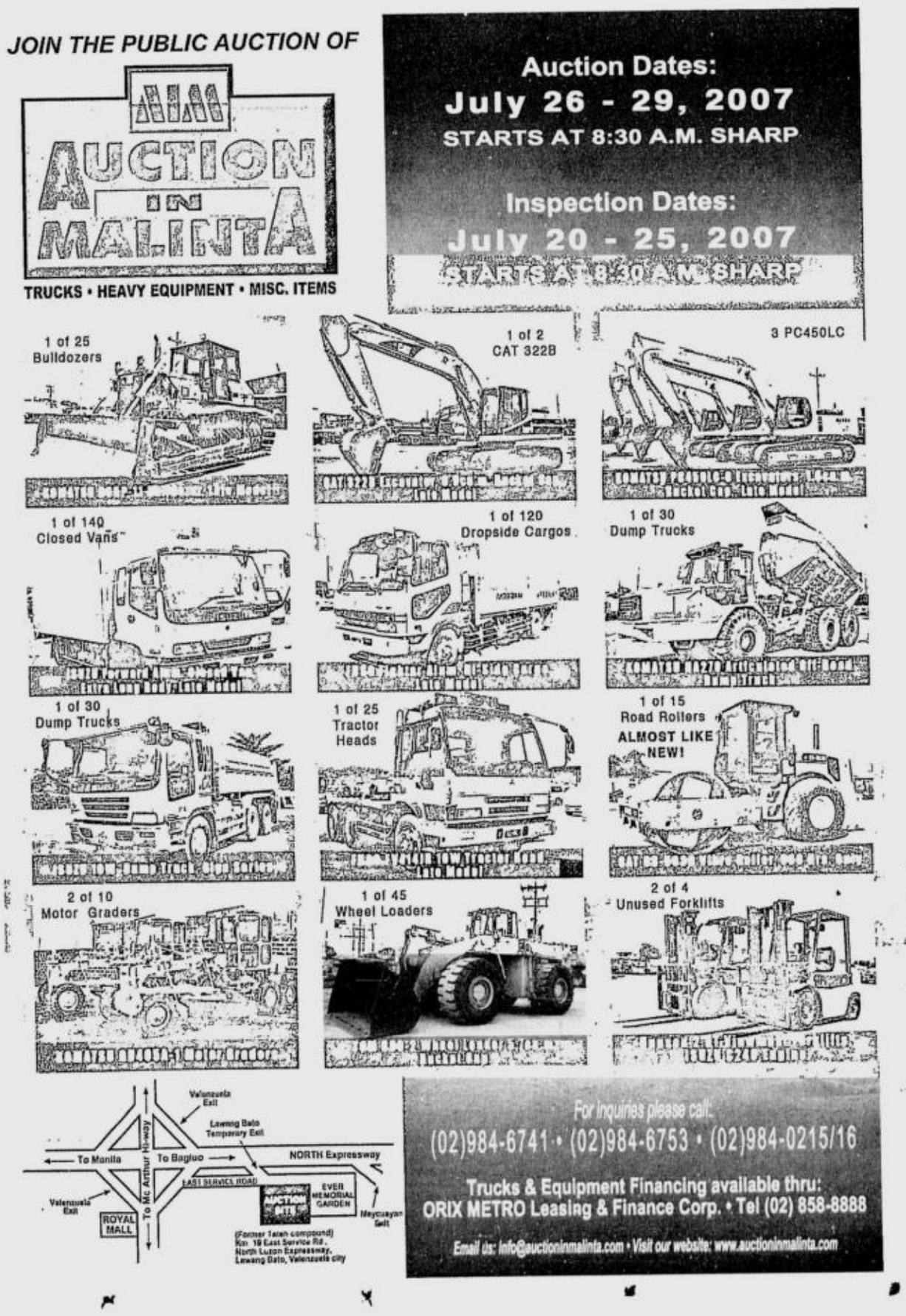
Romulo gave no specific date for the visit but mentioned that Rice and other US officials involved in efforts to restore peace in war-torn Iraq were due to report to the US Congress on the Middle East situation.

"Dr. Rice called me and she told me that Sec. Gates and herself will be going to the Middle East. They have a timetable where they have to make a report to the US Congress so they are working their best to ensure that eventually they'll find a way for peace," said Romulo.

But US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said he "can't confirm any future visit" of the State Secretary.

If her visit pushes through, it will be Rice' first visit to the Philippines as Secretary of State and the first visit of a US official with the title since the August 2003 visit of then US Secretary of State Colin Powell, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Organizers of the Manila meetings had said Wednesday that Rice's arrival was confirmed until almost two weeks ago, when the US head of delegation for the Asean meets was replaced by Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, a former US Ambassador to the Philippines.



Mikey gets House energy chairmanship

By Norman Bordadora

THE MAJORITY COALITION IN THE HOUSE of Representatives has tapped the President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo to lead the influential House committee on energy.

In a statement on Thursday, Speaker Jose de Venecia said he was already in close consultation with Arroyo on the proposed amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to ensure the supply of electricity and bring its cost to a minimum.

Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, a senior member of the majority coalition, said their ranks have already decided to make Arroyo the chair of the committee that will tackle changes to the country's power reform act in the wake of an impending shortage of electricity.

Once his chairmanship is formalized in the House, Arroyo will take over a committee tasked to ensure the adequate supply of low-cost electricity at a time when an ongoing drought already caused the power output of water-run power plants to drop.

The former Pampanga vice governor Arroyo has been criticized as a misfit in the committee on energy with at least one party-list congresswoman and a militant alliance saying he has no expertise to make a difference in the power sector.

Arroyo was a vice chair of the House committees on appropriations, legislative franchises and fisheries in the 13th Congress. He was a member of the committee on energy for the majority at that time.

"It's final. We believe that he is competent, responsible and honest. He's a good listener and a consensus-builder. He's qualified for the job," Zialcita told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Zialcita said Arroyo's election to the top post of the House energy committee will be formalized on Monday during the House plenary session.

Even before his election top the committee is formalized, Arroyo enjoined "everyone to help in the energy and water conservation drive as government efforts alone will not be enough."

"We are all in this together," Arroyo said in a press statement. He vowed to immediately convene the House energy committee to work on measures to mitigate the effects of the drought.

"There are those who say that he's not qualified but one doesn't have to be an expert in the power industry to know the issue confronting the sector. As chair of the committee one only has to listen and build a consensus on which solutions to adopt," Zialcita said.

He added that Arroyo's master's degree in business from the University of California at Berkeley is also likely to serve him well.

Errors found in books' health contents

By Beverly T. Natividad

FILIPINO HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADE schoolers are not getting the proper health education they need before they graduate.

Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, former health secretary, told reporters yesterday that the inaccuracies contained in high school and elementary books on health are so "overwhelming," it is "condemnable."

Galvez-Tan is the head of a committee from the University of the Philippines tapped by the Department of Education to review high school and elementary books for its health content.

"It is quite unfortunate that our students are not getting the right health content from their subjects before graduation," said Galvez-Tan.

Galvez-Tan said that they reviewed all textbooks now being used by grade school and high school students in all their subjects in terms of its health content. He said, the books were reviewed in terms of accuracy, appropriateness, and if the contents are updated and recent.

He said that all the books reviewed had failed to make the grade, noting inaccuracies regarding children's rights and facts about nutrition.

'GIVE IT A CHANCE'

Cabral defends law on juvenile offenders

By Volt Contreras

SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY Esperanza Cabral yesterday defended the law that shields juvenile offenders from prosecution after a ranking police officer warned that terrorist or organized crime groups might take advantage of such leniency.

"We must give the law a chance, prove first that it works," Cabral said of the 15-month-old measure. "If that is their fear then all the more must the police do their job."

The INQUIRER sought her reaction after Chief Supt. Pedro Tangco, director of the National Capital Region's Northern Police District, called on Thursday for a review of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 (Republic Act 9344).

Tangco made his views public on RA 9344 days after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed an executive order calling on the Department of Justice and the Public Attorneys Office to work for the immediate release of hundreds of underage offenders still languishing in jail despite the enactment of the law in April 2006.

The law is anchored on the principle that youth offenders should not be punished like common criminals but instead be made to undergo a rehabilitation program. The order particularly called for the release from jail of child offenders aged 15 years old and under.

Tangco then noted that with the law in effect, "the police cannot pursue a case against a minor, and criminals know this."

He said the police should still retain some degree of authority to take custody of and prosecute child offenders who committed terrorist activities and high criminal offenses.

The police general noted how children could easily be brainwashed to carry out terrorist activities or be used as a tool for heinous crimes.

He also suggested that cases of repeat offenders and "hard-core" juvenile delinquents should be treated separately under RA 9344.

Under the law, if a past offender is "rearrested" for the same crime, he or she have to be released again without charges, he added.

Cabral conceded that Tangco was not alone with such worries, saying she had heard other law enforcement officials air the same concerns.

But she said any fine-tuning of RA 9344 at this point may have to be through the amendment process in Congress.

Wars, disasters lead to mental ailments

ARMED CONFLICT, NATURAL DISASTERS and large-scale labor migration are causing mental disorders for up to a fifth of Filipino adults, psychiatrists said on Friday.

Up to 20 percent of adults suffer from some form of mental disorder, with 10-15 percent of children suffering from mental problems, according to the Philippine Psychiatric Association.

Mental disability is a "huge public health challenge" in the Philippines since many of its citizens are exposed to various "extreme life experiences," said Yolanda Oliveros, director of the health department's National Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

"We've tried to identify the components that could influence the mental status of a person and we found that life experiences such as disasters and armed conflict" affect a person's state of mind, Oliveros told an annual convention of the country's psychiatrists.

Oliveros said mental illness is a major challenge in the Philippines, where there are only 400 licensed psychiatrists among a national population of some 87 million. *AFP*

Backers fear for cheap medicine bills

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY group has expressed fears that bills meant to lower the prices of medicines in the country might again fail in the 14th Congress because of the usual intense lobbying by giant pharmaceutical companies and lack of quorum by congressmen.

Oxfam, which has been closely monitoring such measures, urged lawmakers to show up during deliberations—and voting—and also resist "possible favors" coming from big drug companies, represented by the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP).

"The previous Congress already failed the Filipino people by not passing the bill upholding patients' rights over the foreign drug companies' patent privileges, for sheer lack of quorum," Shalimar Vitan, the group's campaign coordinator for access to medicines, said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

She was apparently referring to the House of Representatives, whose poor attendance during the two-day special session last February and again during the three remaining session days last June doomed the Cheaper Medicines Act of 2007.

Oxfam made the appeal following Speaker Jose de Venecia's promise that the bill would be passed within 45 days.

The Senate had earlier passed a starkly different version of the bill which allows parallel importation of patented medicines. Authors of the House version believe theirs was stronger and more effective in dismantling the so-called "cartel" by giant drug companies.

"Now is the time to redeem themselves as public officials tasked to formulate laws that will bring relief to poor Filipinos," Vitan said.

The group was so concerned about the passage of the bill that its members were perennially present in congressional sessions. Some of them were tasked to watch out for drug company "lobbyists" and take pictures of them approaching lawmakers.

"We expect big, foreign pharmaceutical companies under the Philippine Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) back in the Congress session halls to prevent the bill from being passed," Vitan said.

"We appeal to our legislators not to succumb to pressures and possible favors from PHAP in exchange for public health."

During the special session in February, lawmakers from the House threw out four lobbyists from PHAP for interfering in the plenary session as they were about to vote to pass the cheaper medicines bill on third reading.

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Sandigan asks Bongbong to testify vs Lucio Tan

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN ANTIGRAFT court has called on the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to make good his declaration that he was ready to help the government in recovering the alleged ill-gotten assets of business tycoon Lucio Tan, one of the dictator's cronies.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Bongbong Marcos has been ordered by the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division to appear before the court on Aug. 1 as a government witness in a forfeiture case involving 60 percent of nine companies owned by Tan, the richest man in the Philippines whose personal net worth has been estimated by the United States-based Forbes Magazine at $1.5 billion.

The government stand that the Tan companies are part of the ill-gotten wealth of the dictator Marcos is largely based on a claim that Imelda Marcos made in 1998 that her husband was the real owner of 60 percent of the companies that she said were being held in trust by Tan, his family and business associates.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government earlier sought the subpoena on Bongbong and several documents that it said would prove the Marcos stake in the Tan firms in connection with Civil Case No. 005, a 1987 suit that the PCGG brought against the ethnic Chinese businessman.

The PCGG is the agency tasked with the recovery of the ill-gotten assets of the dictator Marcos, his family and associates.

Bongbong is expected to testify on documents earlier marked by his mother, Imelda Marcos, during the pretrial stage of the case.

Last month, lawyer Eloisa Sy, Bongbong's counsel, said her client was prepared to support the government claim that a significant chunk of Tan's assets belongs to the Marcos family, and that he had formally conveyed his intention to the antigraft court.

Sy declined to reveal the younger Marcos' motive for agreeing to testify for the government now, considering that the state has been trying since February to serve him a subpoena.

At stake is a combined 60 percent in nine Tan companies that the PCGG wants forfeited in favor of the government—Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery, Allied Banking Corp., Foremost Farms, Himmel Industries, Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings, Dominium Realty and Construction Corp. and Shareholdings Inc.

Imelda claimed these Tan companies for the Marcos family in a nine-part series which appeared in the INQUIRER on Dec. 5, 1998.

Imelda declared that "we practically own everything in the Philippines, from electricity, telecommunications, airlines, banking, beer and tobacco, newspaper publishing, television stations, shipping, oil and mining, hotels and beach resorts, down to coconut milling, small farms, real estate and insurance."

She said lawyers were already at work in the "biggest litigation" in Philippine history to reclaim the estimated P500 billion worth of equity in more than a hundred blue-chip companies that her husband had allegedly entrusted to his cronies.

She said her lawyers were preparing to file several "big suits" against the establishments in Imelda's list which included, among others, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the San Miguel Corp., the Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp., the Manila Electric Co., Philippine Airlines, real estate firms, banks, television and broadcast stations, mining and oil companies and the Tan companies already mentioned.

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Marcoses . . .

From page A1

"Unfortunately we cannot stop or reverse our actions because it is a collegial, a commission action, but we still have to evaluate what was filed and sort out the issues," Cueto told reporters.

Imee, a former congresswoman for Ilocos Norte, filed her written request with the SEC at about 6 p.m. yesterday. She refused to be interviewed and left immediately after her meeting with Cueto.

In her letter to the SEC, Imee claimed that the Marcos family owned the shares held by Duavit, his family and Group Management Development Inc., a company owned by the Duavit Group.

In trust for family

She claimed that Duavit, who bought the shares from dzBB-TV Channel 7 or Republic Broadcasting System, before it became the GMA Network, was only holding the shares in trust for the Marcos family.

Imee's mother, Imelda, and her brother, Bongbong, have made similar claims about the Marcos family owning substantial stakes in other prime Philippine companies. (*See related story above.*)

According to Imee's lawyers, GMA had disclosed in its final prospectus that "the Duavits were one of the three majority stockholders who would receive 28.35 percent of the enlarged share capital without disclosing further that the shares held in the name of the Duavits were merely held in trust for our client and her family."

The lawyers claimed Imee Marcos had personal knowledge that "there is a cloud of doubt" as to the real and beneficial ownership of the shares which were brought from Republic Broadcasting by Duavit.

The GMA, in allegedly failing to disclose this, had violated disclosure rules, the lawyers said.

Companies offering their shares to the public must disclose all material information before the SEC and the PSE.

Imee has requested the SEC, after due notice and hearing, to apply the provision of the securities law which authorizes the SEC to reject the GMA network's registration statement. She said the SEC has the power to suspend the company's right to sell and offer for sale securities or require further information if what the company has disclosed was misleading.

In 1996, the SEC stopped an initial public offering by the Puerto Azul resort firm after the Marcos family claimed that it owned shares in the company.

Imee's lawyers provided a list of various corporations whose shares were allegedly held in trust for the dictator Marcos. Among those allegedly held by the Duavits were the following: six certificates of Alta Tierra Resources Inc. (60,000 shares); three certificates of Alta Tierra Universal Holdings Systems Inc. (800,000 shares); and 40 certificates of South Eastern Sierra Madre Resources Inc.

It could not be immediately established what the relationship of these companies were to the GMA network.

The GMA network was able to raise P7.7 billion from the initial offer of shares completed this week. The shares were priced at P8.50 apiece.

Duavits real, actual owners —GMA network

LAWYER GENER E. ASUNCION, COUNSEL for the GMA Network, yesterday said the Duavits were the real and actual owners of their GMA shares and have concrete proof of their ownership.

"Sometime in 1986, a former owner of Republic Broadcasting, Loreto F. Stewart, sought to recover shares of the Duavits and even asked for injunction to prevent the registration of the shares in their favor but this was rejected by the Court," Asuncion said in a statement.

"Finally, Mrs. Stewart gave a notice of dismissal of her complaint and on Nov. 28, 1986, the Court dismissed the complaint," he added.

The GMA lawyer said the letter from Imee Marcos would have no adverse effect on the strong interest of the investing public in the GMA listing and promising share prices.

"The listing of GMA shares will be held on Monday, July 30, as scheduled. No restraining order or injunction has been issued by SEC or any court," Asuncion said.

He said the SEC had approved the registration statement of GMA and issued the corresponding certificate of permit to offer "securities for sale" last July 16. The PSE approved the IPO on June 28, 2007.

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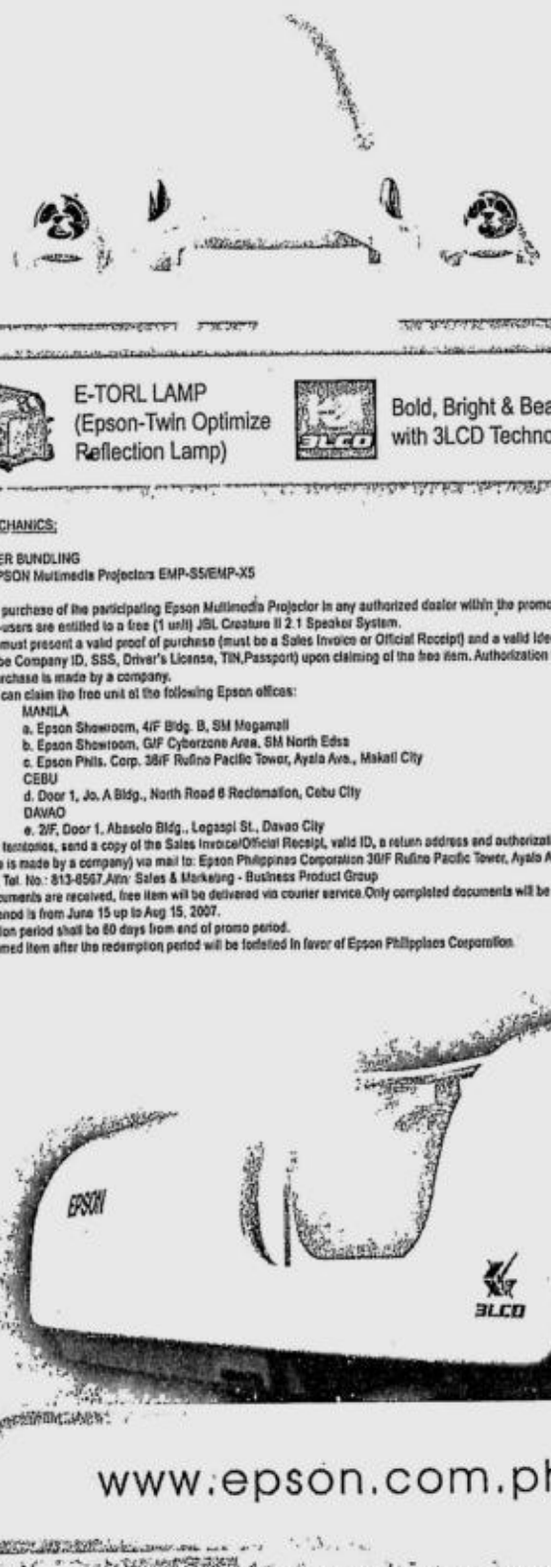

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Last words from slain . . .

From page A1

Velasco, Bayawan's first Regional Trial Court judge, fought for his life but lost early yesterday.

He was 59.

Unidentified gunmen riding a motorcycle shot Velasco Wednesday night in front of his wife in Barangay Villareal, Bayawan City.

Velasco was being wheeled to the SMC when fellow judges rushed to his side. It was then he told them that he knew the attack was job-related.

Fighting for his life, SMC doctors removed 10 bullets from different parts of Velasco's body. Earlier, doctors at the Bayawan District Hospital removed another bullet immediately after the shooting.

Eyewitness

Velasco had just alighted from a motorcycle in front of his home at 7:40 p.m. Wednesday when shots rang out from a group of passing motorcycles, according to a report of the Negros Oriental provincial police.

Velasco's wife told the police that several motorcycle riders passed by while her husband alighted from a motorcycle driven by Junjun Garabato, a court employee.

Velasco's wife added that the gunmen could be part of the group of motorcycle riders who pass through the town of Sta. Catalina.

Police recovered casings for .45 cal. bullets at the scene of the crime. They arrested a suspect, Tolio Eminedo, who tried to avoid a police checkpoint in Sta. Catalina town.

Eminedo was brought to Dumaguete City but the police released him after a paraffin test conducted by the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory showed he was negative for powder burns, indicating he had not fired a gun.

No bodyguards

The Bayawan City Police is working with the National Bureau of Investigation in identifying Velasco's assailant.

Velasco, a native of Zamboanga del Norte, was once a prosecutor based in Dipolog City prior to his duty as the first RTC judge of Bayawan City.

The towns of Sta. Catalina and Basay also fell under his jurisdiction. Velasco also decided on cases involving heinous crimes.

Police sources said Velasco had received death threats earlier this year, forcing him to get two bodyguards. However, he had the bodyguards withdrawn recently, as the threats to his life appeared to have subsided, sources told the INQUIRER.

Chilling reminder

Lawyer Raymund Mercado, Integrated Bar of the Philippines governor for Western Visayas, condemned the attack as the work of persons who have no respect for the law.

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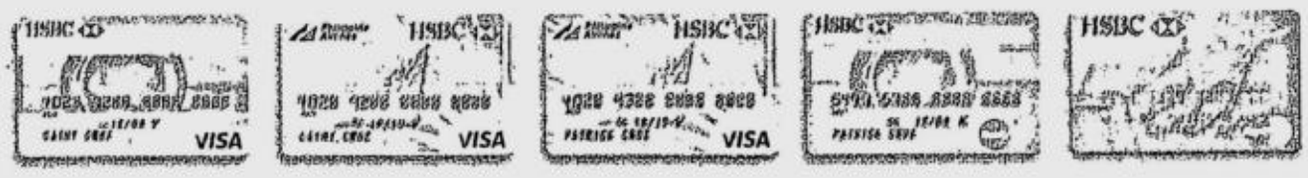

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Life, romance go on behind bars for Magdalo

From page A1

Cavite City, often laugh over a "typical scene" at the camps.

Baby boom

"The men play basketball, and the wives sit around the court, all of them with babies in their arms," a regular visitor said.

The "baby boom" began actually just soon after the failed mutiny four years ago.

In October 2003, Marine Capt. Gary Alejano became a father to twin daughters. His wife is due to give birth again, proof to what a poet once said about a baby being "God's opinion that life must go on."

The recent election into the Senate of Magdalo leader Antonio Trillanes IV has buoyed spirits, Mariflor, wife of detained Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, said. "There is hope in the air," she said.

Military careers have been dashed in the aftermath of the 18-hour caper on July 27, 2003, at the spanking commercial complex in Makati City.

But after 9/11 and the specter of terrorism, a lucrative job looms ahead in the security sector of civilian life for the junior officers and men comprising Magdalo that took over Oakwood.

In fact, once out of detention, "the Magdalo people will be in demand in the security sector," says Mariflor Querubin. "More financially rewarding careers are waiting for them outside the military," says Querubin.

She has been attending weddings, baptisms and birthday celebrations at the detention centers, indicating that life goes on.

Life was not so certain last year for some.

Blue Christmas

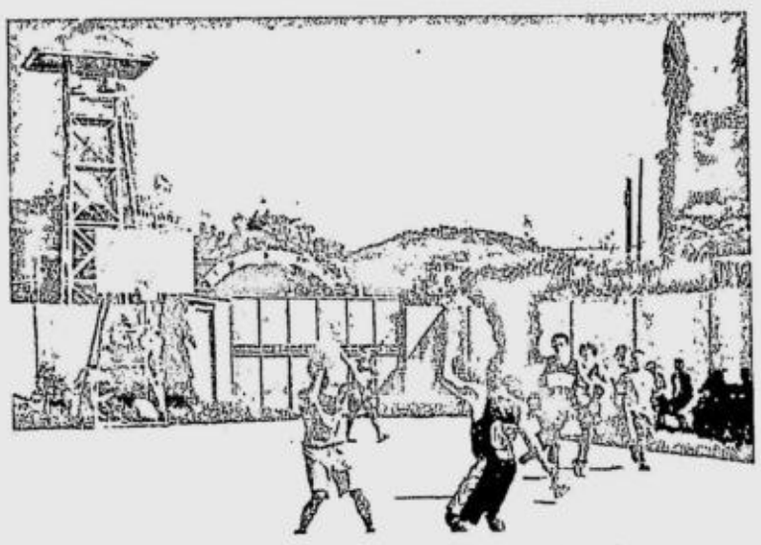
Only last December, an Army lieutenant told a friend about how it was like to celebrate Christmas in the stockade.

"This will be my fourth Christmas here, and at the rate our court case is moving, I could say we would be spending Christmas here again next year. I wish they would just discharge us from service, that's more than enough punishment for me," the Army lieutenant says.

In fact, life has been a roller-coaster ride since the group of lieutenants and captains found themselves at the posh Oakwood hotel on Ayala Avenue, demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo and reforms in the military.

Strained friendships

An INQUIRER source close to the Magdalo group said "friendships became strained" after some of the group's leaders made a public apology to the President, hoping to gain freedom in exchange for the public admission of guilt.



A DAY IN THE LIFE: Keeping fit and playing sports have become routine to the detainees at the Marine detention center in Fort Bonifacio.

Apparently, the decision to make a public apology was not a consensus and was seen as an opportunity for the government to drive a wedge between the Navy and the Army and "break" the group's "vow of silence," according to the source.

Effort by the Philippine Army to "break" the Magdalo by sowing intrigues among the detainees caused a rift in the group, the source also added.

The "intrigues" have affected the detainees. An Army detainee who used to send text messages to the INQUIRER complained about how some officers have "started-talking and dragging others with them."

"But they are few," the detainee said, referring to his group who have resisted the temptation to "talk" in exchange for privileges.

Feelings among the Magdalo was also "hopeful" after Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, and 1st Lieutenants Lawrence San Juan, Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang escaped from detention on Jan. 17, 2006, according to an INQUIRER source.

But the high spirits were short-lived.

San Juan was recaptured a month later at a checkpoint in Batangas.

Basketball, volleyball family

After years in detention, life has become routine. At the crack of dawn, the detainees cook their breakfast. Afternoons are spent playing basketball or volleyball or lifting weights. There's TV and DVD to watch in the evenings. Karaoke singing is allowed during birthday celebrations.

Some write their diaries or read the Bible.

Detention also became for others a chance to seal relationships with family members. Animosities generated by participation in the mutiny have faded.

"All the experience brought us closer to our families," said one detained officer.

This officer in particular said that he was experiencing "real quality time" with his kids and wife while in detention, something he said, he had never had because of assignments in remote areas, particularly in Mindanao.

"My wife wants me to get out of the service but more than anything else, I am certain that whatever happens and whatever my decision will be, I will have her love and support," he said. *With a report from Arlyn de la Cruz*

(Editor's note: In the predawn hours of July 27, 2003, more than 300 military officers and men seized the Oakwood apartment-hotel in Makati City, protesting corruption in government and demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The mutiny failed and the mutineers landed behind bars. Most of them have pleaded guilty to a lesser offense or entered into a plea bargain. But several dozen have opted to go on trial, believing in the justness of their cause. In this series, the INQUIRER details the price the holdouts are paying for their 18-hour uprising.)

No surprise: AFP in court minus Jonas

From page A1

mother Edita Burgos—which the Supreme Court granted on July 16—had "nothing to do with his alleged abduction," and that he was "not in their custody."

Burgos took the witness stand but was only able to swear on her affidavit because the respondents' lawyers and the members of the court wanted their own copies of it.

Her lawyers, on the other hand, wanted copies of the respondents' replies and even asked the court to cite the latter in contempt for presenting their replies only during the hearing.

In the end, Justice Fernando adjourned the hearing early to give the contending parties time to get copies of the pertinent documents.

Speaking later with reporters, Burgos said she had not expected the military to produce her son at the hearing.

"Whatever it takes, we'll have to go through it," she said in response to observations that the trial could take a while. "What's important is that they have said under oath that Jonas is not with them, so they are bound by it."

Burgos will undergo direct and cross examination on Monday. As the justices had asked, she will present witnesses who could link the military to the abduction.

The Burgos camp has four witnesses who will submit their affidavits also on Monday and testify on Friday.

THE QUESTION is burned into the mind of the Jonas family. Mother Edita Burgos and son Jose Luis during the hearing at the Court of Appeals. EDWIN BACASMAS

No-show

Of the respondents named in Burgos' petition—President Macapagal-Arroyo, Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp), Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, 7th Infantry Division head Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, Lt. Col. Noel Clement of the Escort and Security Battalion, and 56th Infantry Battalion commanding officer Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano—only Gomez showed up.

The President and top military leaders were in Zamboanga City to discuss the looming military offensive in Basilan.

Tang (representing the respondents), Isafp legal affairs unit chief Maj. Ser-me Ayuyao (representing Bangit), and Ricardo Fernandez and Pete Agabin (representing Burgos) made their opening statements at the hearing.

Justices Fernando, Monina Zenarosa and Rosalinda Vicente asked why the military had failed to update the Burgos family on the progress of the inquiry into Jonas' disappearance.

Tang, quoting Esperon, said the inquiry remained an "internal matter."

Fernandez complained that all the Burgoses had gotten from the military was a "runaround." He said the military had cited confidentiality and refused to provide the family its initial report on the investigation.

Jonas, 37-year-old son of the late press freedom fighter Jose Burgos, has been missing since April 28, when he was forcibly taken by six men and a woman from the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City.

Bangit's reply

Only Bangit among the respondents submitted a reply to the writ of habeas corpus, wherein he denied personal knowledge of Jonas' abduction. Tang said the other respondents had yet to verify and sign their replies, which she said would be submitted before 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

In his reply, Bangit said he and the Isafp, "at every twist and turn about the controversy and at almost every opportunity, have been subjected to unsubstantiated, baseless, deceptive and highly speculative news reports and commentaries in the newspapers."

He cited a July 6 report in the INQUIRER quoting an unnamed Isafp agent as saying that the vehicles used by Jonas' abductors were a grayish Toyota FX and a red Toyota Vios, contrary to the account of mall security guard Larry Marques, who had mentioned a maroon Toyota Revo with Plate No. TAB-194.

Bangit said that if the agent were to be believed, the Isafp had nothing to do with the abduction because it had no Toyota FX or Vios in its pool of vehicles.

He added that the agent, as reported in the INQUIRER, used code names for other agents that had no connection with the ones used by Isafp operatives in any way and at any time.

"It is fundamental in a petition for habeas corpus that the person to whom the writ is directed is capable of producing [the subject of the writ], or at the very least knows where the person is," Bangit said.

Ayuyao, Bangit's lawyer, said this was "definitely" not the case with the Isafp and its chief because Jonas was never in the agency's custody and his whereabouts were unknown to it and its chief.

Actual vehicle

The justices also raised questions about the actual vehicle used in Jonas' abduction.

The witnesses of the Burgos family said the vehicle was a maroon Toyota Revo with Plate No. TAB-194.

The plate number was later traced to an XL-TG (modified jeepney) impounded at the 56th Infantry Battalion's headquarters in Norzagaray, Bulacan. But the Land Transportation Office said the plate number belonged to an Isuzu.

Tang said the battalion had admitted negligence in its custody of the XL-TG, which was impounded in connection with an illegal logging case.

Asked by Justice Vicente who had custody of the XL-TG, Tang said the vehicle was held in the battalion headquarters under a "loose arrangement" with the local environment office.

She later told reporters that it was even possible that the plates on the Toyota Revo had merely been copied or manufactured.

'Missing-person' case

Tang, however, challenged the appellate court's jurisdiction over the case, claiming that Jonas' disappearance was a "police matter."

She argued that the writ of habeas corpus applied only to cases questioning the legality of a person's detention, and not to the case of Jonas, whose whereabouts remained unknown.

"This remains a missing-person case, which is still a police matter," Tang said, adding that the court should allow the police to conduct a deeper inquiry.

"They have not established that Jonas is in the custody of the respondents, and the Supreme Court established in an earlier ruling that a case of disappearance is for the police to work on," she said.

GMA immune from suits

Tang also said the President could not be included among the respondents because she had immunity from lawsuits.

Edita Burgos filed her petition for a writ of habeas corpus at the Supreme Court, which issued a writ on July 16 and ordered the respondents to produce Jonas.

But it referred the case to the appellate court, saying there were questions of fact in Burgos' petition that needed to be resolved in a trial.

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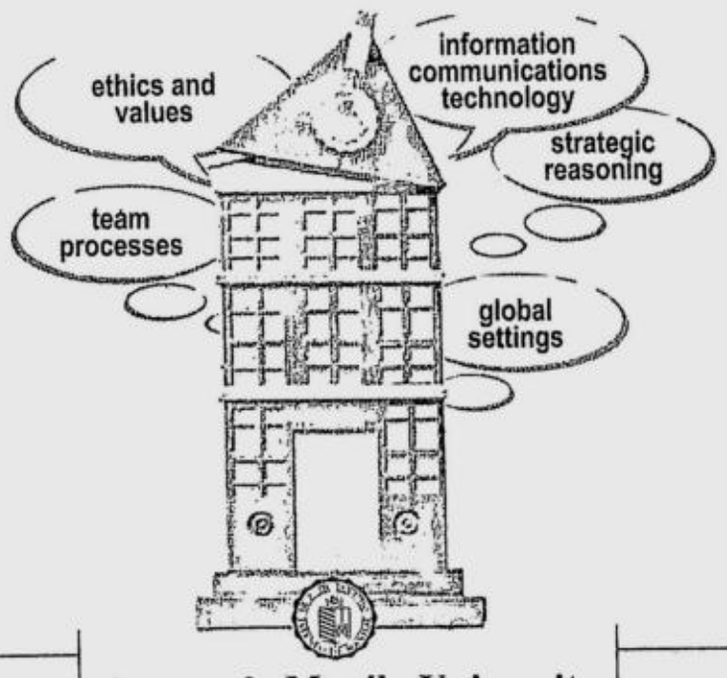

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Brownouts cost Meralco ₱1.8 billion in lost sales

By Abigail L. Ho

THE EIGHT-HOUR ROTATING brownouts that occurred Wednesday cost the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. some P1.8 billion in lost sales, a top company executive said yesterday.

Meralco executive vice president and networks head Ricardo Buencamino said the distribution utility suffered 2 gigawatt-hours worth of lost sales due to the power outages.

"The manual load dropping that we did last Wednesday affected 177 circuits, costing us P1.8 billion in lost sales," he told reporters.

Despite the lost sales, Meralco vice president and utility economics head Ivanna de la Peña said the distribution utility could still meet its 2007 targeted sales increase of 2.5-3 percent.

"To date, sales have grown by 4.2 percent. Without more brownouts and supertyphoons, our sales target is still achievable, considering our year-to-date results," she said.

Meralco registered a 62.3-percent net income rise to P1.81 billion in the second quarter, from P1.12 billion in the same quarter last year.

The company said its strong second-quarter performance boosted its first semester earnings to P2.34 billion, a drastic jump from the P367-million profit posted in the same period a year ago.

Revenues for the April-June period soared 23.6 percent to P59.19 billion, on the back of strong electricity sales during the period.

For the first half, revenues rose 20 percent to P107.39 billion from last year's P89.51 billion.

Meralco attributed the increase in its electricity sales to lower electricity rates due to the suspension of the Energy Regulatory Commission's automatic generation rate adjustment (Agra) mechanism starting September last year. The suspension was only lifted on June 28.

Angat water supply for NCR residents cut

From page A1

the water allocation for residents in Metro Manila," Alikpala said.

He said he had informed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the stakeholders about this.

"We're hoping the rains will come before the turbines give out," Alikpala said.

The Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), for its part, is intensifying its "cloud-seeding" operations in the coming days to augment the critical water levels in dams in Central and Northern Luzon, and avert drought.

The BSWM is deploying two more planes to conduct cloud-seeding over agricultural areas and dams in Regions 1 and 2 this week, cloud-seeding officer Leilani Naga said over the phone.

Little effect

The cloud-seeding operations will target agriculture lands in Regions 1 and 2, the Magat Dam in Isabela and the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan, according to her.

At the request of Napocor and MWSS, the bureau has been conducting cloud-seeding operations over Angat Dam since July 19.

"So far, there has been little effect because the soil in the dam is parched. But we're not giving up," Naga said. He added the bureau planned to extend the operations beyond 50 hours just to fill up the dam.

After weeks without rain, the water supply has dipped to a critical level in Angat and other multipurpose dams in Luzon, prompting Pagasa to declare a dry spell.

"We've recommended the intensification of cloud-seeding operations," said Jorge Estioco of the NWRB.

Rice supply stable

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap gave assurances the supply and prices of rice would remain stable in the coming months despite the dry spell in Luzon.

"We would like to assure the public that rice supply and prices are expected to remain stable because the National Food Authority has already reported adequate buffer stocks," Yap said in a statement.

Four regions—the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Bicol—have been affected by the dry spell.

Yap also said the public should not worry about possible shortage of supply because the Department of Agriculture could still source rice from other major palay-producing areas in Visayas and Mindanao.

He said that while the dry spell could affect *palay* harvests in Luzon, other major producers were expected to offset production losses in the affected regions.

Aid to palay farmers

The major *palay* producers expected to help offset losses are Panay Island, considered the rice granary of the Visayas, southeastern Mindanao and central Mindanao.

Yap said the department was ready to extend assistance to *palay* farmers affected by the dry spell by setting up small-water impounding works in dry areas and offering alternative means of livelihood, like providing them seeds for short-gestating crops like vegetables.

But he said the DA would have to consider the impact of the dry spell on the next *palay*-planting season.

He said the DA would conduct "damage-mapping" of areas hit by the dry spell to determine the needs of *palay* and corn farmers.

Lack of planning

Yesterday, agriculture officials were drawing up intervention measures, like a massive distribution of seeds in quick-turnaround areas to mitigate the impact of the dry spell and boost harvests in non-affected regions.

An industry source, meanwhile, said that the blackouts that had hit some areas were due to lack of coal and oil and that this was "a result of lack of planning."

"Water or hydro plants are only 15 percent (of the total amount of supply)," said the source, asking not to be identified. "It shouldn't cause brownouts."

While denying that there is a shortage of fuel for some of its power plants, the state-run National Power Corp. has resorted to emergency fuel purchases for the Malaya thermal power plant.

Bidding for the Malaya fuel oil supply had been scheduled for Monday.

According to the bid invitation, issued only on July 26, bidders should submit their bids by 9 a.m. on July 30 for 21,890 kiloliters of fuel oil.

P500-M contract

The approved budget for the contract is placed at close to P500 million.

Bid invitations were issued to potential suppliers Filpride Resources Inc., Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell, Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc. and PTT Philippines Corp.

The contract will cover the fuel oil supply of the Malaya plant for the whole month of August, according to the terms of reference for the bidding.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar earlier blamed absence of rainfall for the lack of power supply last Wednesday, which resulted in rotating brownouts in Luzon.

Napocor blamed

Consumer group People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) slammed the state firm, saying not all the blame should be placed on lack of rainfall.

"Napocor cannot blame the power shortage solely on the shortage in rainfall. Napocor itself shares the responsibility of not stocking up on fuel given the shortage in water for hydroelectric plants. This dire situation will now force Napocor to resort to emergency purchases and negotiated fuel contracts which will escalate power rates," Power convenor Giovanni Tapang said.

"In the past, it was during these times of emergencies that power rates rose because of some vested interests who were trying to make a quick buck at the expense of the consumers," he added.

Surprise move: Palace 'transfers' Neri to ChEd

From page A1

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye would neither confirm nor deny this latest movement in the President's official family.

But a congressional leader privy to the decision told the INQUIRER late yesterday that Neri, who heads the National Economic and Development Authority, was being moved to ChEd, to replace Carlito Puno.

"That's only a temporary reassignment," said the top congressional leader who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Romulo Neri is highly regarded in the Cabinet," said the official, pointing out that Neri was being moved to ChEd to perform a "special assignment from the President."

'Temporary'

Neri himself confirmed in a phone interview that he did not resign and was temporarily vacating his post at the Neda to head another government agency "that is currently having problems meeting its performance targets."

Neri declined to disclose the name of the agency, saying he was still waiting for a formal order from Malacañang.

"I will be transferred to another organization, which I can't say for the moment, just to solve the problems there. But after about six months, I will be back at Neda, just like what happened before when I was asked to temporarily head the budget department," Neri said.

Augusto Santos, the deputy director general, will serve as Neda officer in charge during Neri's temporary absence.

When the then Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin joined the "Hyatt 10" mass Cabinet resignation in July 2005, Neri was asked to temporarily leave Neda to head the Department of Budget and Management.

In February 2006, Neri was returned to the Neda after Rolando Andaya Jr. was appointed the new budget chief.

The congressional leader said Neri, who as Neda director general handles all economic planning tasks for the government, including approval of all government projects, would probably be back at the Neda after six months to a year.

He said Neri was being moved to ChEd as Puno's appointment there had been extended "so many times already."

"President Arroyo sees the need to modernize higher education to meet the requirements of a modern economy, which is heavily dependent on science and technology, including research," said the official.

Record growth

Neda is partly credited for the record first-quarter performance of the economy. In January to March, the country's gross domestic product grew by 6.9 percent from that of the same period last year, posting its best performance in 17 years. The record growth was attributed partly to higher personal consumption and government spending, among other factors.

Neri has been serving as head of the Neda since almost the start of the presidency of Ms Arroyo who plucked him out of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office in 2002.

A Neda official said the decision to transfer Neri was reached after a meeting between Neri himself, Ermita and some members of the economic team this week.

'Rigodon'

Neri has thus joined the crop of revolving members of the President's official family who have been moved to other Cabinet posts as part of a Cabinet "rigodon" which now appears to be in full swing despite earlier denials by Malacañang.

On June 30, Malacañang appointed Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro defense secretary, replacing former police chief Hermogenes Ebdane, who is to return to his old post of public works secretary.

On July 18, Ms Arroyo appointed one of her most loyal allies, former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, to replace Angelo Reyes, who will move to the energy department.

Ermita said the latest movements were prompted by the resignation of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, who wanted to involve himself in more "intellectual" pursuits.

News of Atienza's elevation as environment secretary was greeted with dismay by environmental groups, which have dubbed him "the butcher of Arroceros," for sanctioning the cutting of trees in the park at the heart of Manila to make way for a building.

Only GMA knows

"The reason for moving [people in] the Cabinet is only available to the President herself," Ermita said. "Remember, our dictum in the Cabinet is, Cabinet members serve at the pleasure of the President."

"Don't be surprised if the President on her own suddenly feels that there's got to be a reshuffle, *rigodon* or changes of people in the Cabinet. All these things, I did not know myself until a few days before the decision [was] reached by the President," he said.

He said Ms Arroyo "always makes her own decision, keeps her cards close enough to her chest, and you can be sure that these are all based on a very good judgment by the President."

Alvarez named 'minerals czar' under GMA

From page A1

ward to "creating wealth for our people from the bosom of the earth, but with due respect for the environment."

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Alvarez's appointment papers on July 17, a day before Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced that former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza had been named environment secretary in place of Angelo Reyes, who took over the energy portfolio from the reportedly resigned Raphael Lotilla.

Also on July 18, the President signed Executive Order No. 636 "transferring" PMDC from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the Office of the President, citing the need to "closely monitor and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the utilization and development of [the country's] mineral resources."

PMDC is the environment department's corporate arm tasked with exploring, developing, mining, smelting and producing, among others, all kinds of mineral deposits and resources.

"We will push for sustainable development in the mining sector while adhering to the principles of responsible mining, strict enforcement of environmental and mining laws, protection for indigenous peoples, and sharing of benefits for all stakeholders," Alvarez, who was environment secretary in 2001-2002, told the INQUIRER.

Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez, president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP), welcomed Alvarez's appointment, saying industry players expected him to do a good job.

"[Alvarez] has started many processes and efforts related to PMDC. His getting a job such as PMDC chair is no surprise," Romualdez said.

DENR 'still in charge'

Horacio Ramos, director of the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said that even with the transfer of PMDC to the Office of the President, the environment department would continue to manage the bulk of mineral-rich areas and regulate mining.

"Our interpretation is that [PMDC] would only manage projects assigned [to it]," Ramos told reporters.

Ramos said PMDC would continue to handle "special projects" and the MGB would manage the rest of the mining projects.

He said the MGB would also continue to perform its functions of regulating companies (including those managed by PMDC), issuing permits, and conducting geo-hazard surveys, among others.

"We're still in charge of the safety of all mines, including those managed by PMDC," Ramos said.

Alvarez also said as much, explaining that the issuance of environmental clearance certificates—a prerequisite for the issuance of mining permits—remained with the DENR through the MGB.

"All regulatory powers are still with the DENR," he said, but quickly pointed out that the issuance of mining permits was now under PMDC.

"I'm the chairman of PMDC, which is in charge of minerals and non-minerals and all mining concerns. PMDC is under the Office of the President," Alvarez said, adding:

"She transferred the authority under her office because she wants efficient management of this wealth for purposes of addressing poverty."

'Much clearer' functions

Alvarez said there would be no duplication of functions.

The functions are "much clearer" now, he said, explaining that prior to the issuance of EO 636, the DENR was in an awkward position because it issued mining permits to private and public companies and at the same time checked compliance with environmental laws.

"There's conflict of interest because [the DENR] has regulatory powers ... on environmental concerns," he said.

Ramos said the MGB welcomed the transfer of PMDC to the Office of the President because it would get more funding for the exploration and development of mining projects.

"I think that's the main reason it was transferred, and we welcome it because with a P500-million annual budget, we can hardly fund its activities," he said.

Prior to its transfer, PMDC was part of the Natural Resources Development Corp., another government-owned and -controlled corporation chaired by the environment secretary and created mainly to focus on developing the mining industry.

It managed special mining projects foreclosed by the government, projects held by the Assets Privatization Trust, and projects with canceled mineral production sharing agreements.

All other projects not under PMDC are managed by the MGB.

"They can't supervise, for instance, Philex Mining because under the law, that's under the MGB," Ramos said.

The mining areas covered by PMDC constituted an estimated 40,000 hectares, which is small compared with the estimated 20 million hectares covered by the MGB, according to a DENR official who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak publicly on the matter.

Engine for growth

In taking a direct hand in the development of the mining sector, the President wants to turn the country into a world mining leader by 2010 "in line with [her] vision for the Philippines to become a First World country in 20 years," Alvarez said.

He recalled that at the 7th Asia-Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition last month, Ms Arroyo said the mining industry would "serve as a leading engine for Philippine economic growth, becoming a source of revenue and wealth to allow the government to seriously bring down the level of poverty in the country."

According to Alvarez, PMDC will take charge of opening to serious investors some 65 non-performing mining tenements that were previously canceled, covering a total of 68,000 hectares.

He projected the income from mining to reach $2 billion by yearend, rising to $10 billion annually if the expected mining boom occurs.

The Philippines is the world's 5th richest country in terms of mineral resources. This year alone, investments in mining have reached more than $500 million.

'Misleading'

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the INQUIRER report yesterday on the transfer of PMDC is "misleading in that it gives the impression that all mining concerns have been transferred from the DENR to the Office of the President."

"The text of EO 636 clearly states that it is the [PMDC], a government-owned and -controlled corporation, that is being transferred to the Office of the President. There has been no change in the DENR's mandate on mining matters," Bunye said.

But the activist group Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) warned that such a transfer would open the floodgates to the destruction of the environment and of communities by mining firms.

"We all know that [Ms Arroyo] has listed mining as one of her priority investment areas in her 10-Point Agenda. We fear that with the mining industry under her watch, regulations will become loose, in pursuit of more foreign investments," ATM coordinator Roy Calfoforo said in a statement.

Calfoforo said the closure orders against S.R. Metals Inc., San R Construction Corp. and Galeo Equipment Corp. in Tubay, Agusan del Norte, were a triumph of environmental regulation.

"But with [Ms Arroyo] usurping authority from the DENR and [transferring] industry regulation directly under her authority, will she exhibit the political will to go after bigger mining operations with better, more sophisticated connections?" he said.

Coordination

The DENR official who had sought anonymity said he believed the transfer was meant to facilitate coordination between the Office of the President on one hand, and the local government units and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on the other, in the grant of mining permits.

LGUs can impose a moratorium on mining while the NCIP issues a certificate of precondition—a requirement for the issuance of permits to small- or large-scale mining firms, the official said.

Diwalwal model

"With the President coordinating, the process of getting the endorsement of the LGU and NCIP precondition certificate will be much easier," he said.

In a statement, Alvarez said that as environment secretary in 2001, he addressed the 19-year-old problem on Mt. Diwalwal in Davao which, he noted, had been described as "a festering social wound of greed, power and violence in the conflict between small and huge interests, the lowly and the mighty."

At least 6,000 people have been killed in Diwalwal, including a judge and a town mayor, since gold was discovered there in 1983.

Alvarez said that on his suggestion, Ms Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 297 declaring Diwalwal a mineral reservation under DENR management. *With a report from Ronnel W. Domingo*

NBI ON $250-M SCAM

Forex agents warned: Testify or else...

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) yesterday warned employees of Performance Investment Products Corp., the foreign exchange trading firm whose Singaporean owner has disappeared with at least $250 million of investors' money, to cooperate in the investigation or face charges.

Lawyer Ruel Lasala, NBI National Capital Region regional director, singled out the PIPC's "agents," or marketing executives who allegedly enticed investors to put their money in the firm.

He said it was these "agents" who presented to the investors what it was that PIPC was offering in exchange for the money being invested.

"In particular, we want to know from them how the whole scheme works since they were the ones who explained it to the investors," Lasala said.

He warned the PIPC executives that they had better cooperate in the investigation or they will be charged as accessories.

Lasala said he has been contacted by several investors although they have yet to file formal complaints.

"Many of them are still in shock because of such big financial losses. They couldn't believe that they fell victim to the scam. They do not know what to do or where to go because their savings disappeared just like that," he said.

He said many investors were still consulting with their lawyers as to whether or not they should file a complaint. Others are too embarrassed to come out.

So far, only two investors have filed complaints against PIPC incorporators, particularly Cristina Gonzalez-Tuason, the Filipino general manager.

The complainants both claimed that they each invested $20,000 in PIPC and that they were recruited by Tuason.

Dominador Villanueva, executive officer of NBI Interpol where one of the complaints was filed, said details of the complaint cannot be made public until the cases actually go to court.

GONZALEZ-TUASON

Lasala said the money involved in the PIPC scam was much bigger than the Internet-based Francswiss scam which is being investigated by a special cybercrime unit of the Philippine National Police.

Francswiss, an online "Ponzi" investment scheme which reportedly began operating in March, is believed to have gypped Philippine investors of an estimated P1 billion. In a Ponzi scheme, operators promise investors abnormally high, short-term returns out of money raised from new investors rather than from profits generated by a real business.

"PIPC has been in operation for nine years and most of its investors were really big-time. There were those who claimed to have invested as much as $6 million," he said.

PIPC investors included expatriates and business executives, as well as some of the most prominent and influential families in the country, according to two of its investors.

The PIPC case first came to light when Tuason wrote the NBI on July 19, seeking help from the Interpol in tracing the whereabouts of Michael H.K. Liew, the owner of the PIPC in the British Virgin Islands (Performance Investment, BVI).

Liew is also the president of PIPC, the local subsidiary of Performance Investment, BVI.

In her letter, Tuason said Liew had "unlawfully taken the money" of Performance Investment "to the grave prejudice of its investors," including herself.

However, some investors are including Tuason in the charges as they said it was she who had entertained, enticed and encouraged them to invest their money with PIPC.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 28, 2007
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 24:3-8
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus told his disciples another parable, "The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and left.

"When the plants sprouted and produced grain, the weeds also appeared. Then the servants of the owner came to him and said: 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'

"He answered them: 'This is the work of an enemy.' They asked him: 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' He told them: 'No, when you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. Let them just grow together until harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the workers: Pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them; then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Commentary

Moses returns to the people and they promise obedience to Yahweh. They ritually accept the will of the Lord, and become his people as Moses pours blood over the altar. Then he reads aloud the book of the covenant to the people and they ritually accept all that is written there. Then he sprinkles the remaining blood on the people. They have shared the blood of the sacrifice—it is the people (not the holocausts/bulls, etc.) that God wants as his own, in obedience.

Jesus tells the parable of a man planting good seed in his field and his enemy plants weeds. They grow together and the question is, "Do you weed out the field?" Jesus says no, let them grow together and at harvest, when each bears fruit from their seeding and life, there will be reckoning and separation. Are we weeds or wheat? What are we reaping from what has been seeded in us by the Word of God all these years?

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GMA delays Basilan attack; 5,000 troops dig in

From page A1

three days to come up with results of its investigation into the July 10 Basilan military debacle, in which 14 Marines were killed—10 of them beheaded—during an ambush.

The MILF has admitted its forces were involved in the ambush but denied they beheaded any of the soldiers.

Esperon said Ms Arroyo ordered punitive actions against those involved in the incident but made it clear these should be done only after three days from yesterday.

Ms Arroyo also talked with Basilan officials during a separate meeting about the matter.

"Until such time that the results of the investigation come in, there should be no operation," Esperon said.

No amnesty

Esperon said it was "not a matter of who perpetrated (the beheadings) anymore."

"It's just a matter of punishing them so that people will not think that it is perfectly all right to behead. This barbaric act has no place," he said.

Acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales agreed.

"No more amnesty for beheaders this time and in the future," Gonzales said.

The military has been itching to get back at those behind the ambush and has deployed 5,000 troops on Basilan, with more forces to come.

Villagers have fled their homes in the municipality of Albarka (formerly Tipo-Tipo), where the ambush occurred, to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Arrest warrant issued

At least 130 leaders and members of the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf were named as responsible for the killing of the Marines in the arrest warrant issued by Judge Leo Jay Principe of the Basilan Regional Trial Court Branch 1.

Principe recommended no bail bond for those charged with murder and a P200,000 bail bond for those charged with frustrated murder.

Police Director General Oscar Calderon said the police would serve the warrants.

Backup force

Chief Insp. Danilo Bacas, information chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police, identified eight of the wanted leaders as Hamsa Sakandun, Nat Mudalan, Suhod Dimaya, Sulaiman Murata, Hadji Dan Asnawi, Lun Hadji, Rogie Indama and Nurhasan Jamin.

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WAR AND PEACE: Though President Arroyo hopes for a peaceful solution to the Basilan conflict, the troops are ready for an all-out war. RAFFY LERMA

GMA still hopeful for peaceful solution

By Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING VIOLENCE ONLY BEGETS VIOLENCE, FORmer President Corazon Aquino yesterday expressed hope for a peaceful solution to the Basilan conflict.

Ms Aquino said that she felt sad and sorry for the families of the 14 Marine soldiers killed in an ambush in Basilan.

"They were only trying to rescue Fr. Bossi (freed Italian missionary Giancarlo Bossi) and they had to give up their lives and I hope this will be the last of such gruesome things," Ms Aquino told reporters after attending a testimonial parade in honor of retiring military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado in Camp Aguinaldo.

Commenting on military plans to go after those behind the killing of the Marines, Ms Aquino said it was "important to let those people know what they did was wrong" and for the "entire AFP to show they are very concerned about their own."

"But I hope all of this violence will end," she said.

Told that the military had called off operations until Tuesday, Ms Aquino said: "Yes, because violence begets violence."

"It's really sad and painful to know that Filipinos are killing fellow Filipinos."

A SENSE OF HUMOR could be the first line of defense: A Marine from the 38th Battalion kids around with the media while disembarking from a ship at the Basilan wharf in preparation for an offensive against the MILF, which, however, has been suspended by President Arroyo until further notice next week. RAFFY LERMA

The military will serve as a "strong backup force" to the police when they serve the warrants, Esperon said.

He said that aside from serving as backup, the military would launch operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and other parts of Mindanao as ordered by Ms Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo has approved an emergency procurement of mortar tubes, mortar rounds and ammunition to support the operation, Esperon said.

As to fears that the serving of the warrants would spark more violence, Esperon said: "We hope that by going to the legal process of investigation and the serving of warrant, we shall avoid any unnecessary violent actions and reactions."

Donor countries alarmed

Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said the government was trying to prevent the situation from going out of control because that would affect the peace process with the MILF.

Prior to the ambush, government and rebel negotiators had said that the peace talks, which stalled last year on the issue of territory, were expected to resume next month.

Foreign countries with projects in Mindanao expressed fear about a possible flareup of widespread fighting.

Donor countries Canada and Japan have expressed alarm over a possible outbreak of hostilities in letters to the government, saying the fighting may prompt them to suspend aid operations in the south.

The World Bank issued similar concerns.

"We're a sovereign country. We will make appreciation of what is best for our national interest," Gonzales said. "We will always listen to our friends but the ultimate decision is (with) us."

He said the apprehension of donor countries over escalating hostilities in the south was due to "lack of information."

"I always take it ... that we have not explained enough. I will call a meeting or go to them to clarify things," said Gonzales.

Appropriate steps

Dureza, for his part, said: "While we welcome the concerns of those countries, their seeming apprehension is misplaced. Let it not appear as if they are more concerned than we are in preserving the gains of the peace process."

Dureza added: "They should feel secure at the thought that with or without their prodding, President Arroyo ... will take the most appropriate steps to address the situation with national interest as the paramount consideration."

Ms Arroyo is hosting the annual meeting of the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which starts on Monday. It will be followed by a meeting of the larger Asean Regional Forum, which will discuss security issues, among others. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Astronauts fly to space drunk, says report

From page A1

An independent panel studying astronaut health found "heavy use of alcohol" before launch, according to Aviation Week & Space Technology, which reported the finding on its website.

A Nasa official confirmed that the health report contains claims of alcohol use by astronauts before launch, but said the information is based on anonymous interviews and is unsubstantiated. The official did not want to be named because Nasa plans a news conference Friday to discuss the panel's findings.

Independent panel

The panel was created following the arrest in February of former space shuttle astronaut Lisa Nowak, who was accused of attacking the girlfriend of a fellow astronaut—her romantic rival—with pepper spray in a Florida parking lot. Nowak pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted kidnapping, battery and burglary with assault and was dismissed by Nasa in March.

Aviation Week said the report—ordered by Nasa Administrator Michael Griffin—does not deal directly with Nowak or mention any other astronaut by name.

Nasa's space operations chief, Bill Gerstenmaier, said Thursday it would be inappropriate for him to discuss the matter before the report is released Friday.

Asked if he had ever had to deal personally with a safety issue involving a drunk astronaut in space, Gerstenmaier replied, "The obvious answer is no. I've never had any instances of that.

"There's not been a disciplinary action or anything I've been involved with regarding this type of activity," he said.

The independent panel's Nasa consultant and its eight members, which include Air Force experts in aerospace medicine and clinical psychiatry, did not immediately return phone messages or e-mails from The Associated Press on Thursday afternoon. *AP*

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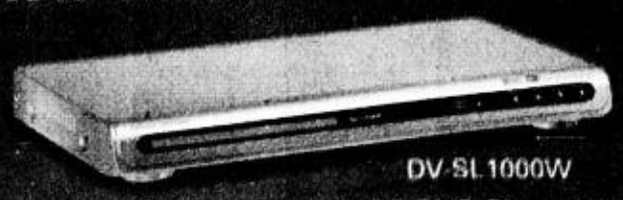

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Short

EDITORIAL

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO UNveiled her administration's P1.7-trillion Public Investment Program for the last three years of her presidency, the question on everyone's lips was an unbelieving, "Where will she get all that money?" Ms Arroyo hastened to supply the answer by citing three major funding sources: P1 trillion from revenue collections, P300 billion from the earnings of government corporations, and P400 billion from private investments, local governments and foreign assistance. Those figures hardly reassured those who suspected that she did not have her feet planted firmly on the ground. But while such carping and cynicism were expected from her usual critics, whether in the opposition or the media, what caught administration officials by surprise was the public airing of similar doubts by the London-based Fitch Ratings.

The day after the President delivered her State of the Nation Address, Fitch declared that the government would not be able to carry out its "ambitious" infrastructure development program unless there was a "significant improvement in tax collection." The government's revenue collection effort during the first six months has been disappointing, the international credit rating agency said, noting that while real economic growth was believed to have averaged 6.5 percent in the first half of 2007, "the 3.4 percent growth in tax receipts was rather poor." Because of the revenue shortfall, Fitch said, the government would not be able to achieve its goal of holding the budget deficit down to P63 billion, and the full-year deficit would balloon to P125 billion.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves promptly disputed Fitch's basis for its gloomy prediction, saying it didn't count the expected proceeds from the sale of some government assets. He said that with the privatization of some big-ticket items and improved collections, the government would still be able to keep the deficit at P63 billion for the whole year.

The fact remains, however, that both the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs have failed to achieve their collection targets so far this year. The BIR, which was given a collection target of P373.3 billion for the first half of the year, managed to collect only P334.7 billion. The BOC collected P92.2 billion against its target of P105.3 billion. Thus, the two principal tax collecting arms of the government fell short of their targets by a total of P51.7 billion. And this is the reason the actual deficit widened to P41 billion compared to the target of P31 billion.

Despite the confident pose they put on, Teves and other officials are obviously very much worried by the shortfalls in revenue collection. And they should be, for the administration's infrastructure program, which the President intends to be the country's springboard to First World status, hinges on the government's ability to raise funds.

Right now those ambitious projects look like pure fantasies, given the poor performance of the government revenue-collecting agencies. With this year's revenue shortfall, the targets given to the BIR and BOC under the proposed 2008 budget don't seem realistic at all: P845 billion for the BIR, up 14 percent from its P740 target for 2007; and P254.5 billion for the BOC, up 10 percent from this year's P231 billion.

Finance officials have been scrambling to find ways of pushing up collections, starting with the sacking of Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag for the BIR's failure to deliver the targeted revenue. More recently, the revenue district offices were ordered to conduct a tax-compliance audit, aimed at flushing out tax cheats. There was also the successful bidding for the Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, which fetched $930 million. With some luck, the government might yet be able to prove Fitch wrong as far as the deficit is concerned.

But the administration cannot bank on the sale of government assets to bridge the gap between revenues and expenditures, much less to finance its infrastructure-building program; there are only so many of those assets, and soon everything will be gone. The key is efficiency in tax collection, which seems to be the direction the government is taking.

Filipinos should hope the effort to collect the right amount of taxes will succeed this time. Otherwise, the administration might ask Congress to pass new tax measures, which would again penalize honest taxpayers and continue to reward tax evaders.

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The nation in GMA's eyes

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

A STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS (SONA) is interesting not only for what it says but also for what it does not say. The nation hears not only the speech but also its silences. Every Sona reveals a president's way of seeing, and there is no way of excusing its blind spots by referring to the speaker's limited time.

In a speech lasting 56 minutes, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her listeners on an archipelagic tour of the Philippines. She hopped from island to island, identifying regional growth centers by their main political players and sponsors, and cheerfully acknowledging their presence in the audience. You realize that what is being described is not merely a location map of the new infrastructure, but the whole terrain of political patronage—the path of the gravy train.

Unseen and unmentioned is the state of the people living in these regions. Do they have jobs? Do they have enough food on their tables? Are there enough schools and teachers for their children? Are they adequately sheltered? Do they have water, electricity and basic medical care? Are they safe in their homes? How did they vote in the last election, and what messages might they be sending out by the way they voted?

What set the 2007 Sona apart from the past Sonas of this administration was the bravura and callousness that attended its entire delivery. GMA sounded as if she was the winner of the recent election. She spoke as if the problems that have troubled our society over the past years—the political killings, the mass hunger and unemployment, the threat of renewed conflict in Mindanao, the government's continuing dependence on massive foreign and domestic borrowings, etc.—are nothing but figments of her enemies' imagination.

For the first time, Ms Arroyo gave the nation an idea of what she thought defined the limits of her powers: none. "From where I sit, I can tell you, a President is always as strong as she wants to be." I think only a dictator can say that with a straight face. Do we still wonder why our institutions are weak?

I used to think that former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's rebuke of GMA's Proclamation 1017 was sharp. Justice Panganiban had written: "Some of those who drafted PP1017 may be testing the outer limits of presidential prerogatives and the perseverance of this Court in safeguarding the people's constitutionally enshrined liberty. They are playing with fire, and unless prudently restrained, they may one day wittingly or unwittingly burn down the country." I now think it was too subtle, and that it had fallen on deaf ears. This president is not in the business of testing "the outer limits of presidential prerogatives." She recognizes no such limits.

The wonder of it all is that Ms Arroyo could, in the same breath, talk about her vision of a modern Philippines in the coming years. "We will have achieved the hallmarks of a modern society, where institutions are strong. By 2010, the Philippines should be well on its way to achieving that vision." This is empty rhetoric. She said nothing that would substantiate that vision. Modernity is not just about physical infrastructure. It is about institutions, a way of running the complex affairs of a nation.

But all these blind spots and omissions should not surprise us anymore. The key to Ms Arroyo's rise to power and political survival has been precisely her ruthless disregard for institutions. She justifies it as a normal survival reaction to the demands of a "degenerated" political system. (That clumsy word comes from one of her previous Sonas).

She knows that what has worked for her is not the rule of law but the system of patronage that permits her to buy the support of politicians and generals. What she may not know is the brittleness of any form of authority that rests chiefly on remunerative and coercive power. It breaks as soon as the resources run out. Worse still, this style of leadership tends to invite reprisals, while offering no protection against them, once the ruler is out of power.

"It is my ardent wish that most of the vision I have outlined will be fully achieved when I step down," she said toward the end of her speech. Almost every one noticed that she did not say when that was going to be. Under the Constitution, her term ends in 2010. But, once we consider how she managed to get this far, it becomes easier to understand why a lot of people don't believe her and why they think a push for constitutional change is likely to be attempted again.

She doesn't even need to demand Charter change on her behalf. Someone is bound to say it for her, to shout to the world how we cannot live without Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Mass demonstrations and posters will suddenly appear on our streets to bring this message of great urgency to the public. This theme will be picked up by a chorus of columnists and commentators who, even as they sing hosannas to Ms Arroyo, will note the absence of worthy leaders among those currently waiting in the wings.

Nothing perhaps can be more wretched than the future of a bratty autocrat about to lose power. "They say the campaign for the next election started on May 15, the day after the last. Fine. I stand in the way of no one's ambition. I only ask that no one stand in the way of the people's well-being and the nation's progress." But who is she to expect anyone to subscribe to her pre-modern notion of "the people's well-being and the nation's progress"? Isn't this what is supposed to be debated in a democracy?

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Many frontiers

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.,
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

I AM NOT SURE WHETHER I MET FR. GIANcarlo Bossi personally. I do recall a tall, bearded priest who passed by at his confreres' center for missionary formation in Zamboanga City while I was there some years ago. In any case, like perhaps millions of others here and in Italy, I followed news of his kidnapping as if I did know him personally. And after his release, when I saw the picture of that big, bearded man laughing heartily, on the front page of the INQUIRER, I experienced a joy I could hardly contain.

I see Father Bossi as a man who, for love of Christ, has chosen to live on the frontier, serving the people there and accepting all of the risks that such service involves. At the same time, he is not unique among his brethren in the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME). They have had no more than about 25 priests in the Philippines at any one time since they came in 1968, yet they have had two of them murdered and two kidnapped. Back in 1985, Fr. Tulio Favali had his head shot off by the Manero Brothers Gang in Tulunan, North Cotabato. Together with his PIME colleague Fr. Peter Geremia, Father Tulio had been active in defending small farmers from land-grabbing by politicians and from the other abuses of the Marcos years. For that he was branded a communist.

In 1992, Fr. Salvatore Carzeda, PIME, who was on a different frontier, promoting Muslim-Christian dialogue, was ambushed and killed in Zamboanga City. Then in 1998, Fr. Luciano Benedetti, PIME was kidnapped not far from where it happened to Father Bossi; he was held for 69 days.

Not all of those working on the frontiers have met such dramatic fates. Father Geremia is still active, working with tribal communities in North Cotabato. I recall traveling with him in 1985, from Kidapawan to a tribal area in Columbio; we passed Tulunan and stopped briefly at the spot where Father Tulio had died some months before, then raced onward as "the Manero Gang is still around, and they will recognize this vehicle." Later we slowed and moved very carefully through a military checkpoint because "these are my personal enemies." Shortly after, he said: "Now we are safe; this is MNLF country."

One must admire the persistence of these men of the frontier. At the same time, we might recall that not all of the frontiers are in Mindanao and not all of the frontiersmen (and women) are foreigners. Last week for example, some 100 representatives of fisherfolk organizations from 17 municipalities of Quezon Province facing Lamon Bay, and nine municipalities of Camarines Norte and Sur, met at the Institute of Social Order (ISO). With them were many government officials including Gov. Rafael Nantes of Quezon Province and Dr. Rosa Macas, director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for Region 4. It was a great experience to see the big, tanned fishermen sitting together with the authorities to discuss their problems. Here was another frontier—defending the nation's aquatic resources and the livelihoods of the poorest segment of Philippine society—demanding courage and persistence.

The fishers' organizations themselves are the product of many years of patient work by ISO staff members, other NGOs including Tanggol Kalikasan and Patnubay-World Vision, and their local and foreign partners. Through the organizations, the fisherfolk have become more aware of the damage to their lives wrought by dynamite and cyanide fishing, and by the intrusion of big trawlers into their fishing grounds. Even the children have learned the evil of dynamite fishing, and urge their parents not to do it! They have had the assistance of divers and marine biologists in evaluating their coral reefs. They have mapped Lamon Bay and San Miguel Bay in Bicol, starting with crude designs drawn in the sand. They have pushed successfully for the establishment of marine protected areas where fishing is forbidden and the fish are allowed to spawn.

However, and contrary to what many may think, it seems that the problems at the "grass roots" are just as complex as those at the "higher" levels, if not more so. Over the 60 years of its history (yes, the ISO was established in 1947), the ISO has had to face many challenges: a labor movement controlled in the 1940s by communists, racketeers, companies and government officials; trouble with the then archbishop of Manila and the whole Catholic Bishops' Conference in the 1950s; urban poor organizing and ideological conflict in the 1960s; martial law and a raid on its premises in the 1970s; resetting its sights and targets in the years after martial law; resettlement of victims of the Pinatubo eruption, and dealing with the New People's Army in their areas in the 1990s; and now the fisheries frontier.

On the latter, a key problem has been illegal fishing, spurred in part by sheer poverty and the need to survive, in part by the rapaciousness of commercial fishers sometimes abetted by local officials and venal policemen. The organized fisherfolk have set up "*bantay dagat*" watches to patrol their fishing areas and apprehend illegal fishers. But the latter are sometimes armed, and the *bantay dagat*, instead of chasing the illegal fishers, are chased by them! So they would like to arm themselves; the ISO would prefer better police protection and regular PNP escorts. Hence the meeting with Governor Nantes, and a commitment by the latter to call a fisheries summit next month and to strengthen police support for the *bantay dagat*.

The meeting give a real boost to the morale of the fisherfolk. We shall see whether this represents another story of persistence, risk and success on the frontier.

Hunger hasn't fallen enough

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

HUNGER GOT ONE LINE IN THE STATE OF THE Nation Address: "And I am happy to see that the latest survey in June shows that the hunger rate has sharply gone down nationwide." Its source was the SWS report published earlier that day, "Hunger declines significantly to 14.7%: moderate is 12.5%; severe is 2.2%."

The decline in the June survey was by more than 4 points from the record-high 19.0 percent of households in the previous two SWS rounds of November 2006 and February 2007.

The first time (July 1998) SWS measured involuntary hunger—experienced by the household without having anything to eat at least once in the past three months—the national figure of 8.9 percent was so shocking that SWS decided to make it a core indicator. Now, with 11.6 percent as the average in 37 quarterly surveys since then, one can see that hunger in July 1998 was actually below normal.

Given 17.7 million households in the Philippines, June's 14.7 percent amounts to 2.6 million suffering households. The 12.5 percent who said they suffered only once or a few times ("moderate hunger") are 2.2 million, and the 2.2 percent who suffered often or always ("severe hunger") are 400,000.

Moderate hunger is still far above the historical average of 8.3 percent. On the other hand, thankfully, severe hunger is below its own historical average of 3.2 percent. The last time moderate and severe hunger were at average, or better, was in March 2004.

The high frequency of SWS monitoring has revealed that **hunger is not static but dynamic.** It can even be **volatile**, changing by as much as 5 percentage points over a quarter.

There have been two full **hunger cycles**, with **peaks** in November 1998 (14.5 percent), March 2001 (16.1 percent), and November 2006/February 2007 (both 19.0 percent); and **bottoms** in October 1999 (6.5 percent) and September 2003 (5.1 percent). Researchers should find out what went right in periods of decline, and what went wrong in periods of increase, by considering food prices, general inflation, wage rates, unemployment, social welfare program operations, etc. In short, quit denying, and start studying. Otherwise, hunger-alleviation is just accidental.

Credibility of hunger surveys. I believe people are just as truthful about involuntary hunger as they are about candidates for whom they plan to vote. The two topics are carried on the same surveys during election season; the election surveys are repeatedly validated.

To label a direct response on hunger as a mere "perception" is wrong: it is a personal experience, not a vision of something external. To say that people are not really hungry but only think they are is to be as cruel as Marie Antoinette.

Quiet confirmation by government. Only last month, I discovered that in April-June 2006, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) replicated the SWS hunger-measurement procedure with a national sample of 12,857 households—ten times the size of a standard SWS survey—and found moderate hunger of 15.0 percent and severe hunger of 3.6 percent, or a total of 18.6 percent—compared to SWS' 13.9 percent in June 2006, 16.9 percent in September 2006, and 19.0 percent in November 2006.

The BAS did this ad hoc survey at the request of Domingo Panganiban, agriculture secretary at the time, and issued a survey report, dated January 2007, to Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap. This report, which is not marked as confidential, was not released to media. The BAS has neither funds nor plans to repeat the survey.

Actually, the government had already done one direct survey of involuntary hunger in 2003, when the Food and Nutrition Research Institute's National Nutrition Survey (sample size 6,683 households) asked this question, among others: "In the last six months, were you ever hungry but did not eat because there was no food or no money to buy food?" This survey (www.fnri.dost.gov.ph) found that the experience happened at least once to 15.1 percent of children, and to 24.4 percent of mothers and caregivers.

Hunger in Metro Manila. The bad news in the SWS June 2007 survey is that hunger rose to a new record-high of 22.0 percent of households in Metro Manila. The previous record was 21.0 percent in December 2005.

Metro Manila's 22.0 percent consists of 17.7 percent in moderate hunger and 4.3 percent in severe hunger. Moderate hunger in the capital is at a new high, from 15.7 percent last February; but severe hunger eased, from 5.0 percent in February. These are well above the 1998-2007 averages of 10.3 percent total—7.6 percent moderate, and 2.7 percent severe—in Metro Manila.

The BAS 2006 survey had also showed very high hunger in Metro Manila—at 24.0 percent, versus 22.2 percent in Mindanao, 16.0 percent in the Visayas, and 14.4 percent in Luzon. Among all regions, only the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, at 35.4 percent, had worse hunger than Metro Manila.

Hunger drags GMA down. Last July 16, SWS published its new survey rating of the President, with 39 percent satisfied and 42 percent dissatisfied, or -3 net satisfaction for the country as a whole. This breaks down into 30 percent satisfied and 52 percent dissatisfied, or net -22, among the moderately hungry, and 9 percent satisfied and 67 percent dissatisfied, or net -58, among the severely hungry. In non-hungry households, GMA's satisfaction score is 41-40 or net +1.

Statisticians' conference. The Philippine Statistical Association's 2007 annual conference will be on Sept. 19, on the theme "Mga Nagugutom Sa Pilipinas: Ilan At Nasaan Ba Talaga Kayo?" at the Philippine Social Science Center in Quezon City. I will be a discussant.

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

More than meets the eye

(First of two parts)

COMMENTARY

Mario A. Deriquito

RECENTLY, I ACCOMPANIED OUR SON TO watch "Transformers." I went into it like a dutiful adult, prepared to sleep through a children's show. I came out of it younger than my son, I think, and feeling like I had just been through a marvelous adventure.

The *bida*, Sam Witwicky, thinks his yellow car is just a beat-up, junkyard bargain. And we watch with him, unbelieving, as the different parts of this junkyard car slowly metamorphose into the giant gleaming robot called Bumblebee. And we are even more amazed, as we watch other vehicles—trucks, cars and a Hummer—transform into the Autobots, led by the magnificent Optimus Prime.

The movie's tagline was "More Than Meets the Eye."

Why do I begin with this? Because we who are steeped in the many problems of the country always need such images to be reminded that transformation is always possible. And that in the junkyard that we sometimes think our country is, lies a hidden greatness waiting to rise.

Much has been said about the sorry state of Philippine education. Aside from the endemic shortage in classrooms, desks and books, more and more children are unable to stay in school, with the highest dropout rate at 25 percent among children in Grades 1 and 2. Many children, even those in higher grades, are unable to read or understand what they read. Our children are not learning enough. This shows in their test scores in division and national achievement tests.

The League of Corporate Foundation reported that in the past three years alone, the Philippine business sector contributed more than P3.6 billion to various programs in public education. Yet despite all this, the quality of education continues to decline. The efforts of the private sector have led to success stories on the ground. But what continues to elude us is system-wide improvement.

Obviously there is a need to do things differently.

The "57-75 Campaign" to reverse the education crisis is an attempt to do just that.

First of all, there are hundreds of private sector groups involved in a wide range of programs, in addition to the large amounts of private sector resources poured into public education. We propose to channel all these energy, resources and efforts into achieving common targets nationwide. We propose to focus only on the most basic and the most critical ones, and to rally private sector efforts around these.

Secondly, in a situation of resource scarcity, we should give priority to essential inputs. We refer to resources that are directly linked to improving school and student performance, resources that can be easily replicated or distributed nationwide.

Our third point addresses the issue of scale. Private sector efforts have led to success stories among particular students, teachers and schools. What we plan to do now is achieve impact in whole towns, cities and provinces. We want a level of engagement that will produce not merely isolated successes, but system-wide impact.

Furthermore, we want our schools and our key stakeholders to be responsible for producing results in exchange for resources.

We envision a campaign that is fueled on the synergies of multi-sectoral collaboration; one that engages the business sector, local government, the Department of Education, the schools, the local communities, NGOs, civic groups and the mass media.

Those are the principles. 57-75's goals are clear and specific.

First, we want to help children stay in school, especially in Grades 1 and 2, where the dropout rates are highest. Second, we want to enhance the children's ability to read and to understand what they read. And finally, we want to improve the children's achievement levels, especially in math and science.

To help more children stay in school, especially in Grades 1 and 2, the primary intervention will be in-school feeding. This is because according to DepEd figures, the main cause of children dropping out of school in Grades 1 and 2 is health and nutrition-related. To improve reading comprehension, the primary intervention will be the provision of reading workbooks and teachers' guides. To enhance achievement levels, the primary intervention will be workbooks and teachers' guides in math and science. Other interventions are of course also important. But in a situation where resources are scarce, priority should be given to these.

How do we now organize ourselves?

Former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad and education consultant Mario Taguiwalo describe the characteristics of a systemic approach to educational reform.

The first is: "A vital national source of education vision and direction (linked to a national level resource mobilization) that responds to aspirations of different Filipino communities and draws from the best available knowledge and practice worldwide and nationwide."

The second is "A system of localized support, delivery and accountability providing organized instruction and structured education experience to all Filipino children that is guided, driven and inspired by the national vision and direction."

57-75 hopes to build on what Abad and Taguiwalo call a "3 part system" that will perform the two roles of providing national vision and direction, and generating localized support, delivery and accountability. 57-75 is a national coalition, convened by the private and civil society sectors, that will provide overall direction and embark on a national-level resource mobilization. *(More next week)*

Mario Deriquito heads the 57-75 Task Force, a group of representatives of the six member-institutions of the 57-75 consortium. He is also director of Ayala Foundation's Center for Social Development.

Looking for Tintoy; exodus in DOE

BETWEEN DEADLINES

ASKING THE WRONG PEOPLE. THE SEARCH for Jonas Joseph Burgos has led this reporter to call on even those sources in the police and the military she had not talked to in years. Questions about the whereabouts of the agriculturist-activist seemed to irritate not a few of them; some were simply uneasy.

"Maybe you are asking the wrong people, maybe you are looking in the wrong places," a senior colonel said. More than once, the INQUIRER was given this unsolicited piece of advice: "Ask Tintoy." Or, "Tell that to Tintoy."

"Tintoy" is Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commanding general of the Philippine Army. "Tintoy" headed the Northern Luzon Command when controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan was chief of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division. Some of the infantry battalions allegedly behind the killings or disappearances of militants in Central Luzon—the 24th IB, the 69th IB, the 56th IB—are under the division's wing.

When the INQUIRER pressed on, "Why Tintoy?" the sources either shrugged their shoulders or merely smiled. ***F. Zamora***

* * *

DELAYED REACTION. Sen. Gregorio Honasan found himself at the receiving end of a good laugh from his colleagues and spectators in the Senate gallery last Monday.

In the course of arguing for limited freedom for detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said: "After all, the alleged leader of the Oakwood mutiny, Senator Honasan himself, was set free, so why not the followers?"

As laughter swept the hall, Honasan himself was unable to suppress a smile. But he did not take the floor to object.

He only did so the next afternoon, when he asked Pimentel to delete the portion in the resolution that mentioned him as the alleged leader of the mutiny. Pimentel promptly complied. ***D. Pazzibugan***

* * *

SPEAKEASY. Visibly frustrated, House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora last Monday scored the majority coalition for the seemingly pointless debates surrounding the election of the speaker of the House.

With just hours left before the President was to deliver the State of the Nation Address, Zamora said the majority coalition should have already settled the race between Jose de Venecia and Pablo Garcia.

"*Mabuti pa ang oposisyon*," Zamora, who was chosen the opposition candidate the week before, told reporters. "If it's only possible, we'd choose among ourselves who the speaker would be."

Hearing him regale the media, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., who ran under PDP-Laban and the Genuine Opposition in the last elections, was quick with a rejoinder.

"We just hope the electorate would elect more of us in Congress so we can have the speaker from among ourselves," Locsin told reporters, as Zamora pulled him back into the raucous session. ***N. Bordadora***

* * *

SURGE IN ENERGY. Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, who assumes the Department of Energy portfolio next month, is expected to bring with him "a battalion of aides, including his own PR man."

So where will that leave the existing staff of the Office of the Secretary? The Osec can only hold so many people, literally and figuratively. Before they find themselves relegated to the list of the unemployed (which they probably will be when the "battalion" comes in), reliable sources say the Osec staff—all of them—will do a mass exodus.

And let's not forget Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo, who's also raring to get out of the DOE. How's that for a show of support? ***A. Ho***

* * *

CALLING DIRTY HARRY. He may not have a cell phone, but Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim makes up for it. Contrary to what reporters initially thought, direct access to the new mayor is easy to come by because the main door to his inner office isn't "heavily guarded." His staff members accommodate requests for unscheduled interviews—and they don't have to be badgered for his whereabouts. Lim is also more often seen shuffling in and out of his office, and during events, Lim makes time to answer queries even when he's in a hurry. "*Maski si* Erap *binigyan ako ng* cell phone *kasi nagtaka siya bakit hindi raw ako gumagamit. Pero kinuha ng anak ko, nagandahan ata*," said the 77-year-old former senator, laughing.

Aside from his home and office land lines, Lim can also be reached through—you guessed it—the mobile phones of his driver and security men. ***A. Lopez***

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the June 17, 1986 issue of the INQUIRER: A crisis may soon engulf the Constitutional Commission for the most unlikely cause. A group of ConCom members wants the word "love" scrapped from the preamble of the charter a-borning.

Film director Lino Brocka said he does not believe "love" fits in.

However, Rev. Cirilo Rigos, Bishop Teodoro Bacani and Yusuf Abubakar—in a show of ecumenical unity—argued passionately for the retention of the word.

Jose Suarez, trying to play the mediator, recommended public hearings on the preamble as well as a deferment of the third and final reading on it.

This may set back the ConCom's timetable and turn the body's rules upside down, remarked Ex-Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo.

Some people may call it nitpicking, but the preamble of the Constitution establishes the tone for the rest of the charter.

Parrots

YOUNG BLOOD

Orlando P. Sayman Jr.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT USED TO BE THAT PARROTS WERE TRAINED TO MIMIC humans. Now, it's humans who are made to act like parrots, although what they have to imitate are not parrots but other humans. Such was my experience while working as a call center agent for at least a week.

The first week of training was a process of alienating trainees from their real nature. It was like forcing a parrot to say "hello" when it's not supposed to simply because it's an animal and not a human being. In my case, I learned to say "twenny" instead of "twenty," "innernet" instead of "internet," and other "whatchamacallit" words.

At first it was amusing. My spiels sounded so strange that it seemed as if there was another spirit residing in my body. But the real calls on the floor were not. Curses were thrown around like missiles, and even when ignored they still got into the nerves.

When somebody tells you that you are the son of a female dog, you can choose not to react, although a volcano inside you is already emitting fire and rivers of lava. Since customers are always right, you can only mute the phone and only then recite your own litany of invectives.

I may sound critical of this industry that has helped many unemployed Filipinos, but there are just some points I want to raise.

First, it is known that the demand of the job is facility with language. However, this is defined primarily as having the accent of a native English speaker. Any language teacher would know that this is not all there is to any language. Besides, if we Filipinos understand other varieties of English, why can't other people do it? While they say that the quality of our English is declining, isn't their comprehension skill also decreasing? For instance, when I would ask customers whether their computer adapter was built-in or external, only a few of them could understand it right away. If they knew their language well, why could they not tell the difference?

We know that a vast majority of those who apply for call center jobs do not make it not because they can't speak English, but because they can't use the language like native English speakers do. When some customers find out that you are a Filipino, they seem to think they are talking to someone from the boondocks so they ask to talk to someone "who can speak English." What's wrong with the way we talk if we can be understood?

Second, customers should understand that they are not just dealing with a mere voice on the phone. They are talking to real people who feel and react to words. They may be upset over a defective product, but that doesn't justify rude behavior.

If they claim to be advanced in terms of technology and economy, they do not seem to be so in terms of good manners. And isn't the latter more important than those other things?

Lastly, the nature of the job calls for someone who can do multitasking. But companies should realize that their employees are persons, not robots or computers, and they should not be forced to work for eight hours or more and deprived of their needed break just because it's a busy holiday in other parts of the world.

There is nothing wrong with technological progress, but we should not sacrifice our humanity while pursuing it. We are people after all, not parrots.

Orlando P. Sayman Jr., 28, is a teacher from Ateneo de Davao High School.

Fighting heart

Hazel Cariño

I WANTED TO CRY WHEN I SAW THE SUNSET TODAY. I felt as if I was seeing it for the first time. I am grateful for the traffic at Edsa, which I normally curse, because it made me notice the sunset for the first time since I came to the city. The sunset reminded me that the sun still rises and sets every day even without me noticing it.

I looked out the window and pretended to be drifting into sleep, ashamed that the other passengers would notice my tears. Then I cried for what seemed to be the hundredth time since I came here. I cried because after all the traffic, the rushing and the pushing and all that dust getting to my face, I won't be home at the end of the day.

A year ago, I left the province with the hope of having a better life. I came to the city with nothing but dreams that were bigger than me, a hesitant heart, a pair of pretty eyes, a few sets of white uniform, a folder full of credentials and a love that tells me there is a reason to fight.

After a year, my dreams are still bigger than me, but they now seem nearer. My heart is no longer hesitant; it tells me now that it can conquer anything and go anywhere it wants to go. And no heavy traffic, no heavy rain, no long tiring walk, no dark night, no speeding car can stop it.

I still have those pretty eyes, but now they seem to be filled with tears most of the time, because as I gather strength, I am losing my love—to this city, to its places and faces. Yet I fight. Every day, amid the tall buildings and the constantly changing traffic lights, I keep hoping it comes back home to this heart, so it will have a stronger will to fight harder.

I still have these eager feet that never get tired of walking, but sometimes they don't know where they're going.

When I look at myself in the mirror, I see the same childish eyes, but my face seems to have grown old from the dust, the heat, the makeup and all the fighting. I still ask my dad to call me every day, not minding that I hear the same reminders about not skipping meals and getting enough sleep. I just need to hear his voice and the sound of home, the only sound that can relieve me of my fears, my pain and my exhaustion.

Those rushing feet and those faces, which I won't all remember, have made me another person. My work has come to love me, the big hospital has finally learned to accept this petite young girl from the province who has sacrificed so much just to be in it.

There are days when missing home hits me so bad that I despise the city and every piece of me it took away. That sunset, which I saw on my way home, smiled at me. It seemed to remember me and how I had watched it from my bedroom window every day when I was back home.

Home, you can say many things about it. One of my friends had me laughing my head off when he said, "Nothing place likes home." I laughed so hard that he didn't realize his mistake. I knew what he meant so I didn't bother to correct him.

They say that home is where your heart is. But now my heart doesn't know where it is. All it knows is that this city took half of me, but it also gave me the strength to take on my bigger dreams.

I still daydream about those days when I was home, a nobody with dreams bigger than she was and with a hesitant heart, a pair of pretty eyes and a love that was enough to fill two hearts. I will never stop dreaming as long as there are bigger dreams out there. This soul will never grow tired of waiting as long as that love says it's there as before. Hearts like mine never stop fighting.

One day home is going to be proud of the girl I've become.

Hazel Cariño, 22, is a nurse at The Medical City Hospital.

Bossi portrait was artist Tomas Concepcion's work

I WRITE IN BEHALF OF THE DISTINGUISHED contemporary artist, Tomas Concepcion.

Last July 13, the INQUIRER ran a news story headlined "Rome-based artist returns for Bossi's sake." The report was accompanied by a photo of the artist with the portrait of Fr. Giancarlo Bossi. The photo caption read:

"Master's stroke: Marawi-born, Rome-based Filipino artist Tomas Concepcion returns home with a portrait he did of Father Bossi with the hope that it would serve as a rallying point for all those engaged in the search for the kidnapped Italian priest. The artist will conduct an interfaith signature campaign for Bossi's release."

On July 22, the INQUIRER ran a story on Father Bossi's release from captivity. In the inside page was a photo undeniably of Tomas Concepcion with Father Bossi holding the portrait. The photo credit was Reuters but the caption was all wrong. It said that the portrait was done by a student.

I find the error ironic because the INQUIRER got it right the first time.

If the two published photos are to be compared, the portrait is different because as Concepcion stated it was an unfinished drawing when he arrived. He was able to render the final stroke while he was in Davao City during his Golden Homecoming Exhibit. It was also in Davao City where he was able to get almost 1,000 signatures as he held an art seminar at the Philippine Women's College as well. The July 22 photo also had signatures all over the portrait.

It was very fortunate that at the time Concepcion presented the signatures and the portrait to the PIME fathers in Zamboanga City on the evening of July 19, Father Bossi was released in Lanao. Through Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra of PIME, Concepcion was able to personally present the portrait to Father Bossi immediately after the July 20 press conference. I hope that this clarifies matters.

—MABEL GUIA ACOSTA,
publicist and assistant to the artist Tomas Concepcion,
mgacosta@gmail.com

We apologize. We had no way of knowing that the Reuters photo of Father Bossi's portrait was the same as that of Tomas Concepcion's. We merely relied on Reuters' caption. Besides, the portrait in the photo was not clear enough for us to identify as a Concepcion portrait.—**Ed.**

ARC intramural already resolved

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS ARticle "Party-list group presses withdrawal of nomination of Miriam's son" (INQUIRER, 7/20/07), written by Christian V. Esguerra.

We would like to clarify that a meeting was held on July 19, 2007, at 11 a.m., in Quezon City, attended by key officials of the Alliance for Rural Concerns (ARC). Among the officials present in that meeting were Frank Roy Ribo (ARC president), Oscar Francisco (second nominee), Edisio G. dela Torre, Manuel (Steve) P. Quiambao and Victor Gerardo Bulatao. The meeting was witnessed by Secretary Narciso Y. Santiago Jr. and his staff, Rep. Jose Yap, and me. The meeting settled ARC important matters, and all agreed to work together in order to push the party list's legislative agenda in Congress. In fact, they were preparing a bill seeking the extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, which they will all file together. Yet Esguerra's report appeared on July 20, 2007.

The subject news article is thus filled with inaccuracies and all-out lies. As of July 19, all problems had been resolved within the ARC, and a gentleman's agreement had been forged among ARC officials. We are thus bewildered by that article still finding print in the July 20 issue of the INQUIRER. Who were Esguerra's sources for the news article? When did he talk with Ribo, who appeared to be his main source? As of 11 a.m. of July 19, all miscommunication within the ARC had already been addressed.

It is clear that Esguerra wanted to manipulate the story to create a controversy and scandal; what he wrote was not based on what actually happened on July 19, but on what happened in the past, if it indeed happened.

—ATTY. HESSIE MALLILLIN

I interviewed Ribo on at least four occasions, the last at exactly 1:59 p.m. (per my cellphone record)—or nearly three hours after the meeting that supposedly settled the ARC rift. He never mentioned anything about it. In fact, he was insisting that the ARC was planning to ask the Comelec to reconsider its decision, or to elevate the case before the Supreme Court. I can understand Mallillin's anger and wayward accusations of misreporting. He's lawyering for Archie Santiago. Obviously, Ribo and Mallillin didn't see eye to eye. But don't shoot the messenger.

—CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA,
reporter, Inquirer

Atienza's DENR appointment disturbing

I AM TERRIBLY DISTURBED BY the appointment of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as environment secretary. As mayor of Manila, he "revived" a dying city by placing street lights one meter apart from each other; closed down Avenida Rizal to vehicular traffic and converted it into a nesting ground for snatchers and prostitutes.

Are there no competent and honest Filipinos who may be appointed to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources other than a former mayor who could not even clean up Antipolo Street in Sampaloc, Manila of road obstructions? Try going to that place and you will see people occupying half of the street already. If Atienza could not even enforce zoning laws, rules and regulations properly, could he be expected to protect our environment?

If we could only copy Marikina City, then we are fine. Marikina's honor, it seems, is Manila's disgrace.

—CARLOS ABAD,
302B Hawk St.,
Metrogreen Village, Pasig City

Way to stop quarry scam in Pampanga

AS A RETIRED CITY treasurer, I was happy to read the news item "Panlilio collects P5M in quarry taxes" in his first five days in office. (INQUIRER, 7/8/07) If this trend continues, Pampanga would be richer by P360 million in revenues in one year, an amount enough to sustain the social services program of Gov. Ed Panlilio's administration.

Sand and gravel fees should make the local government units less dependent on the IRA (Internal Revenue Allotment). However, once graft and corrupt practices creep into the collection of these fees, chances are half of the collectible amount would find its way into private pockets.

Sand and gravel concessionaires are able to avoid paying the fees even though there are checkpoints on places where trucks loaded with sand and gravel pass. The checkpoints are put up so that the tax collectors of the local government would not have to go to concessionaires to collect sand and gravel fees. But in most cases, the concessionaires and the collectors meet halfway—through under the table transactions. This could have happened in Pampanga in the previous years.

In the city where I was assigned as treasurer, our NBI friends offered their services to conduct, together with tax collectors, surveillance in places of extraction, and, presto, the tax collectors had to acknowledge with official receipt the right amount of fees being collected.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA,
J. Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan, Daet,
Camarines Norte

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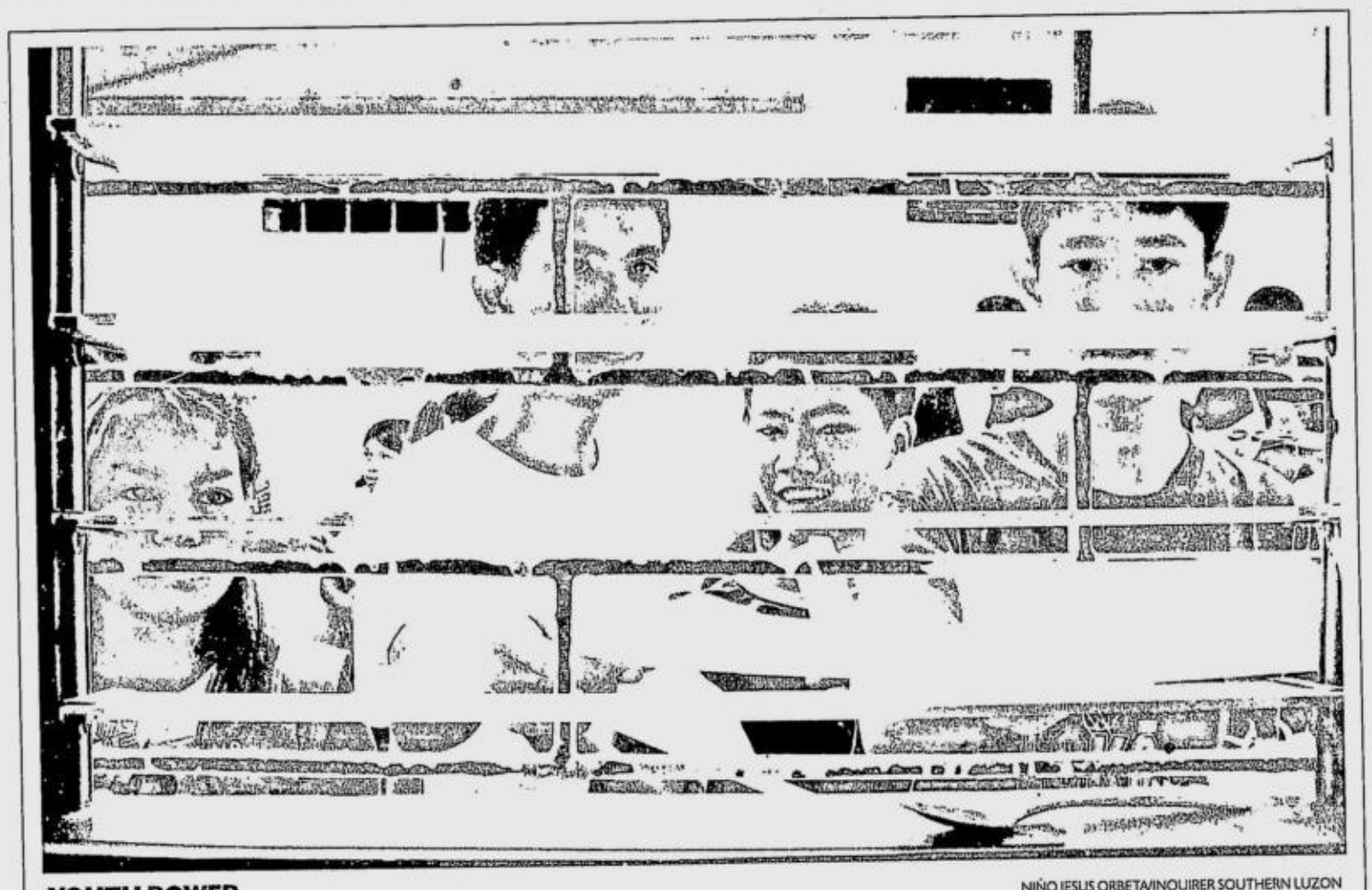
Rain lack ruins ₱215M in Isabela corn



NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

YOUTH POWER
Youths flock to Commission on Elections offices during the period for registration of new voters for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. Long queues were seen, like this one in Guinobatan, Albay, of young people filling up registration forms to be able to cast votes in the elections.

DELFIN ALBANO, ISABELA—FARMERS IN 19 OF 34 towns in Isabela have lost more than P215 million worth of corn due to the lack of rainfall in the past two months.

Danilo Tumamao, Isabela provincial agriculturist, said at least 35,348 hectares of corn farms in 19 towns were hit by the drought. Of this area, corn plants in 27,117 hectares have chances of recovery while crops in 8,231 hectares have been destroyed, he said.

A field monitoring and inspection by the provincial agriculture office, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, and the Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Research Center estimated the production losses in these farms at 62,558 metric tons.

Tumamao said corn plants wilted due to lack of rainfall.

"Signs of wilting have been observed, especially when there is intense sunlight. However, we hope that rains will fall soon so production losses will be minimized," he said.

He said, however, that the area hit by the drought represents a small portion of the total number of farmlands in Isabela.

A report from the Philippine Rice Research Institute in San Mateo town showed that 177,846 hectares of land were planted to corn while 189,252 hectares were planted to palay.

Despite the losses, farmers were hoping that strong rains would come in the next two to three weeks so their crops could survive.

"*Awan ngana mangi mi… madaral ngana ta awan tu uran. Gittana sugal a talaga i pattolaymi* (Our corn plants are useless now… destroyed due to lack of rain. This is like gamble for us)," said farmer Nestor Malenab.

In Laguna, a power company executive said more cloud seeding and prayers are needed in the wake of the power crisis foreseen by the National Transmission Corp. (Transco).

But Carlos Cabrega, revenue production division chief of the First Laguna Electric Cooperative (Fleco), said the recent outages in some parts of Eastern Laguna were isolated cases and not yet an offshoot of the crisis.

Arnold Anacleto, head tender of the Mabitac power substation, said the brief outages took place in two parts of Mabitac at about 7:34 p.m. and 8:41 p.m. Thursday night but these were due to power tripping.

Cabrega admitted that the water level at the Caliraya Dam is at a critical level and if this falls further, he feared Transco and a private power supplier might increase power rate prices. *Villamor Visaya, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Romulo Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Army says NPA rebels gun down 2 Misamis tribal leaders

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—SUSpected members of the New People's Army gunned down two tribal chieftains in Balingasag, Misamis Oriental on Thursday evening, the military reported yesterday.

Col. Eric Benoya, commander of the 8th Infantry Battalion, told radio network Bombo Radyo that Datu Lito Daao, 45, and Datu Manuel Antaluing, 55, of Barangay Dansuli in Balingasag, were inside their homes when the rebels—led by a Ka Reden—arrived and shot them dead.

But the Balingasag police claimed otherwise.

Insp. Cipriano Badar Jr., Balingasag police chief, said they were investigating another angle.

Badar said based on initial information they got from residents of the area, the two tribal chieftains were involved in land conflicts.

But Benoya said the victims had received death threats from the rebels prior to the attack.

He said the NPA had tagged the two tribal chieftains as military informants.

"But they were not working with the military," he said.

Benoya said aside from the two tribal chieftains, the rebels also warned other *lumad* in the area to stop cooperating with the military.

"These are desperate moves being done by the NPA," he said.

The death of the tribal chieftains occurred a week after tribal leaders from all over Mindanao sought the help of the military in seeking justice against alleged abuses committed by communist rebels in their communities.

The appeal of at least 58 tribal leaders was contained in a resolution they handed to Armed Forces chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon during a conference in Davao City on July 21.

In the resolution, which was spearheaded by the Mindanao Indigenous Peoples Conference for Peace and Development (MIPCPD), the tribal leaders urged Esperon to help them bring the abuses before the attention of the Supreme Court.

The High Court had spearheaded a summit aimed at addressing the spate of attacks, targeting mainly militants.

The tribal leaders said the abuses committed by the NPA have been going on for decades now but justice remains elusive for the victims.

"We seek the assistance of the AFP leadership to intercede for IPs in Mindanao to bring to the attention of the Supreme Court to investigate and to give justice to the violations of IP rights caused by the CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines- New Peoples Army-National Democratic Front)" the resolution read.

But while he supports an investigation of atrocities allegedly committed by communist rebels, Esperon said he believed there was a need to explore a resumption of peace talks with the communist guerrillas.

"We have done that with the MILF, what's so different with the NPA? The military is not just for war. It is important that we go for peace," Esperon said.

In a related development, the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Northcentral Mindanao has denied that NPA rebels killed at least five militiamen after a raid on a military detachment in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte last month.

Cesar Renerio, NDF spokesperson for Northcentral Mindanao, said the militiamen were executed by soldiers on suspicion they connived with the raiders.

Earlier, the military said the militiamen, identified as Joel Bilayong, Albert Tanyo, Humoc Tinabla, Legal Mansinugdan and Junie Bilayong, were abducted by the rebels during the raid before they were killed. *Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez and Grace Albasin, Inquirer Mindanao*

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF 2007 TRANSFER OF NFA STOCKS THRU VOYAGE CHARTER OF NFA REGION VII

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its *Corporate Budget for 2007* intends to apply the sum of *Sixteen Million Ninety One Thousand and Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P16,091,750.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of 2007 Transfer of NFA Stocks thru Voyage Charter of NFA Region 7.

The **National Food Authority**, Region VII, Cebu City is inviting all interested licensed operators of vessels/barges whether owned or chartered through Bareboat/Time/Voyage Charter to apply for eligibility and to bid under the Contract for Vessel/Barge Hire for the shipment of rice from Cebu City to various destinations as indicated below:

VOLUME SCHEDULED FOR SEA DISPERSAL

DESTINATION		Lot #	Maximum Quantity/Lot (bags)	Freight Rate/bag	Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot	Bidding Fee
Province	Port					
Bohol	Tagbilaran	1	224,000	27.50	6,160,000.00	4,000.00
	Tapal	2	16,000	21.40	342,400.00	2,000.00
Negros Or.	Dumaguete	3	165,000	25.30	4,174,500.00	4,000.00
N. Leyte	Tacloban	4	46,000	32.40	1,490,400.00	2,000.00
S. Leyte	Baybay	5	30,000	27.00	810,000.00	2,000.00
	Maasin	6	35,000	31.80	1,113,000.00	2,000.00
Biliran	Naval	7	20,000	34.00	680,000.00	2,000.00
N. Samar	San Jose	8	26,000	33.00	858,000.00	2,000.00
	Guiuan	9	13,000	35.65	463,450.00	2,000.00
TOTAL			575,000		16,091,750.00	22,000.00

Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2007, or upon completion of the services, whichever is applicable.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders must have a Largest Single Contract that is completed and accomplished within the twelve month period between 2004 up to the present which is similar in nature and the value thereof must be at least 50% of the ABC. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting *July 28 to August 09, 2007* from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount indicated in the above table. The method of payment will be in cash.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 10, 2007 @ 2:00 PM*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on ***August 24, 2007*** *not later than 2:00 PM.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in %of ABC to be bid
Cash or Cashier's / Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu or	One percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***AUGUST 24, 2007 @ 2:00 PM*** *at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr, Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bid most advantageous to the government or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
RAUL B. CHONG
Banilad, Cebu City
Tel # 032- 232-1939
email address : nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
Fax # 032-233-6095
website : www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) RAUL B. CHONG
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI – July 28, 2007)

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting interested parties to submit proposals and letters of intent to negotiate for the disposition of the property described below thru outright sale, lease, or other similar or variant schemes:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	LOCATION	TOTAL AREA
A parcel of land classified for residential use with TCT No. T-124079	Lot 2 Block 21, Talibeach Resort, Brgy. Balaytique, Nasugbu, Batangas	1,500 sq.m.

1. The disposition and sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis;
2. For outright sale proposals, terms of payment may be in cash or installment;
3. Offers for lease must indicate the proposed terms of lease including a provision for escalation of lease rates; and
4. For other similar or variant schemes, the proposed terms of sale must be indicated.

HGC reserves the right to require additional information as it deems necessary to better understand and evaluate the offer(s).

Activities	Date/Time
Submission of Letters of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	July 30 to August 9, 2007
Pre-negotiation Conference	August 9, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Financial Proposals/Offers	August 15, 2007/2:00 p.m.

Interested parties are encouraged to inspect the property before tendering their offers.

Details pertaining to the property as well as the guidelines for the negotiation can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from July 30 to August 9, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P 2,500.00**.

The Financial proposals/offers shall be sealed and dropped at the designated box located at the HGC's AMDG office.

For inquiries, please call the Asset Management Department at tel. nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit our office at 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
Vice President
Asset Management & Disposition Group

(PDI - July 28 & 29, 2007)

Dengue cases swamp hospitals in Bohol

By Kit Bagaipo
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL—THE Department of Health (DOH) regional office has declared an outbreak of dengue in two city ba-rangays as dengue patients crowded hospitals here.

The DOH regional office declared the outbreak in Barangays Cogon and Dao in Tagbilaran City based on the recommendation of Tagbilaran City health officer Dr. Antonio Porticos.

Susanna Madarieta, DOH Central Visayas regional director, said officials declared the outbreak in the two barangays as the number of dengue patients steadily increased and surpassed the number in the previous months.

The DOH recorded 54 dengue cases in Barangay Cogon and 48 in Barangay Dao since January.

As of Friday morning, the DOH reported 512 dengue cases in the province, with 10 casualties since January this year.

Dr. Reymoses Cabagnot, provincial health officer, said 208 of the 512 dengue cases come from Tagbilaran. The DOH also declared the towns of Jagna and Dauis as dengue "hot spots."

In July alone, DOH recorded 142 dengue cases in Bohol, more than half of the number of dengue cases reported in the province for the entire 2006.

Last year, the provincial health office recorded 268 dengue cases in Bohol. This figure has already been surpassed halfway through this year.

But the figure could be much higher, said Cabagnot, as their records are only based on hospital listings.

As the number of dengue cases continued to rise, six private hospitals have already refused to admit dengue-related patients.

DRIED UP EDWIN BACASMAS

A woman is on her way home with no catch as drought brings down water level at Lake Caliraya in Cavinti, Laguna. Rooftops of structures that were submerged when this part of the town became a water reservoir have started to appear, indicating the seriousness of water shortage at the man-made lake.

Fisheries execs design new net to reduce catching time

By Yolanda S. Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN—Fishermen from Barangay Rabon here need not stay out at sea for long hours as the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) has designed a semi-stationary fish trap that could reduce the number of hours they spend to catch fish.

A FISHERMAN from Rabon Village in San Fabian, Pangasinan helps assemble a fish net designed to reduce the number of hours spent catching fish. RAY ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Westly Rosario, NFRDI executive director and chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' Dagupan research center, said the agency has signed a memorandum of agreement with the San Fabian government and the Rabon Fishermen's Association (RFA) to test the modified fyke nets (locally called *banwar*) to protect and conserve the resources of the Lingayen Gulf and the rivers of Pangasinan.

The fishermen, with technical assistance from NFRDI personnel, were tapped to make the nets at the BFAR research center in Dagupan City.

The nets will be turned over to the fishermen next month during the opening of the Asian Fisheries Academy at the center, Rosario said.

He said fyke nets are traditional semi-stationary fishing gear usually made of fine mesh nets that trap small fish and shrimps. These are placed in rivers.

"Juvenile fishes usually stay at the river's mouth where plenty of food is available to them. Since these are trapped by the fyke nets, the system is not sustainable considering our limited resources. In the sea, the modified fyke nets with larger mesh will catch only the mature fish," Rosario said.

The modified nets will be placed where the water depth is seven meters or about a kilometer away from the shore. Fishermen will harvest the trapped fishes twice daily, he said.

Rosario said fishermen are expected to catch 25 kg of fish daily and this may increase depending on the season.

The expected yield is higher than the 2 kg to 20 kg daily catch of fishermen using gill nets, said Danilo Ducusin, RFA president.

Ducusin said he had to spend several hours a day at sea to catch fish, but with the fyke nets, he will only go to sea to harvest whatever is caught by the nets. This is a big help for him because he works as a security guard, he said.

The efficiency of the gear in catching larger and high value fish, and its economic returns, would be evaluated.

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Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting interested parties to submit proposals and letters of intent to negotiate for the disposition of the property described below:

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION/TYPE	LOCATION	NO. OF UNITS/ FLOOR AREA (In sqm)
5-storey unfinished Medium Rise Building	Building 31 Guadalupe Bliss Phase IV, J. P. Rizal St., Guadalupe, Makati City	No. of units : 20 Floor Area per unit : 67.20

The disposition and sale of the property shall be on an "As-Is-Where-Is" basis payable either in cash or installment basis;

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Activities	Date/Time
Submission of Letters of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	July 30 to August 9, 2007
Pre-negotiation Conference	August 10, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Financial Proposals/Offers	August 15, 2007 / 3:00 p.m.

Interested parties are encouraged to inspect the property before tendering their offers.

Details pertaining to the property as well as the guidelines for the negotiation can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from July 30, 2007 to August 9, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00.

The Financial proposals/offers shall be sealed and dropped at the designated box located at the HGC's AMDG office.

For inquiries, please call Marvyn Anthony Galang or Gerardo Munsayac at telephone nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit the HGC office at #335 Jade Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
Vice President
Asset Management & Disposition Group

(PDI - July 28, 2007)

INQUIRER *Visayas*

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Chinoy family honors debt of gratitude

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

IN WORLD WAR II, THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL Army sought out for annihilation not only their Ilonggo enemies, but also non-Filipinos, especially the Chinese who were not sympathetic to their cause.

In the chaos of war, a well-to-do Chinese businessman lost his lumberyard business and distributorship of American cars and hid in the mountains of Barangay Mina in Alimodian town, Iloilo where the residents took good care of his young family until the war was over and he could return to Iloilo City.

That businessman, Ong Juantong of Fujian, China, could not forget the hospitality and generosity of the people of Alimodian. Three generations later, his descendants continue to honor the debt of gratitude that their patriarch said should always be part of their dealings with the Ilonggos.

Thus, the patriarch who put up Juantong Lumber, his son who envisioned Golden Portals Industries Inc. (GPII), and the succeeding generation that runs it make sure that when they do business, they have the well-being of the Ilonggos at heart.

GPII, one of 50-plus plastic manufacturing firms in the country, was awarded the National Product Quality Excellence Awards for Best Polysacks and Liners (Metro Cebu) on Oct. 22, 2005 at Casino Español in Cebu City, given by Consumer Today Magazine, National Product Quality Excellence Awards, and the National Council for Product and Service Quality based in Manila.

When the company started in 1980, GPII had only two extrusion machine lines (that convert the polypropylene resin to PP yarn) and 30 people who worked for eight hours to produce the PP (polypropylene) woven bag in the company's 6,000-square meter factory in Barangay Baldoza, Lapaz district.

Currently, GPII has two dozen extrusion machines that consume 500 metric tons of plastic resin monthly to support the different midstream machinery, including 160 weaving machines that produce the different product lines of the company.

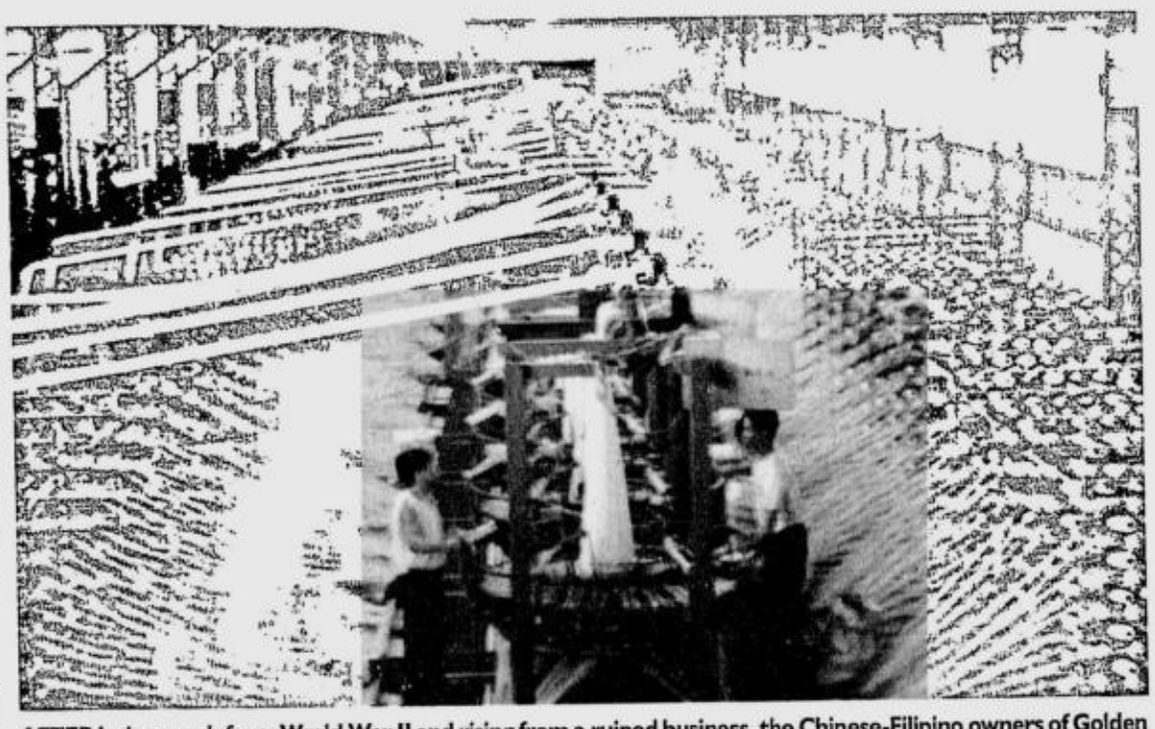
From China to Iloilo

It was not only Ong Juantong who was a recipient of the Ilonggos' hospitality. His father before him, Ong Kok Pau, who came to Iloilo by boat in the 1890s when Ong Juantong was only 8, started as a carpenter and put up a small lumber business.

Before he became Ong Juantong, he was simply Ong Juan but the people at Iloilo Immigration wrote his name as Ong T. Juan that later became Juantong because of a clerical mistake that was never corrected.

These clan stories are familiar to all generations of Juantongs who took over the family business that now focuses on agro-industrial manufacturing for agricultural packaging even as Juantong Lumber is still doing good business.

After the war, Ong Juantong was left with nothing but his property in Iznart Street in downtown Iloilo City, from which he slowly rebuilt the Juantong Lumberyard.



AFTER losing much from World War II and rising from a ruined business, the Chinese-Filipino owners of Golden Portals Inc., a plastics agro-industrial manufacturing firm in Iloilo supplying products to the Visayas, Mindanao and Southern Luzon are paying their debt of gratitude to Ilonggos. PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDEN PORTALS INDUSTRIES INC.

Ong Juantong had five sons and five daughters who helped him out in the lumber business, but he gave the greatest responsibility to his sixth child, Jose, who steered Juantong Lumber towards its peak.

Jose, who finished mechanical engineering at Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila, foresaw the sunset years of the lumber industry and decided to shift to plastics manufacturing, calling his company Golden Portals Industries Inc. The company was incorporated in December 1979 in partnership with Rolando and Eddie Ong, whose father Dimas was the best friend of Ong Juantong.

It was from the desire of his father and grandfather to honor their debt of gratitude to the Ilonggos that made Jose, president of GPII, come up with a cost-efficient means of drying *palay*, the plastic palay net, an innovation credited to Jose in the late 1980s. The plastic palay net is solely manufactured by GPII.

Drying facilities cost about P400,000 to P500,000 at that time, which was way beyond the reach of ordinary farmers and traders.

Jose had his plastics technician come up with a net that has three layers that allowed for air flow between each layer such that the rice grains do not stick to the net and yet heat rising from the ground dries the grains.

Naturally, the first to test Jose's palay nets were the farmers of Barangay Mina who helped hide his father during World War II.

Jose also manufactured the reversible bed mattress that would allow a user to experience a good night's sleep in a tropical climate. The woven mat side enhances air flow during hot season, whereas the quilted cotton side offers warmth during cold weather.

Steady growth

While the palay net and reversible bed mattress were getting rave reviews from farmers and customers, Jose wasted no time in broadening the GPII's product lines from a single product (polypropylene woven bag or PP bag used for packaging rice, flour, corn, sugar, fertilizer, feed and etc.) until it expanded to a dozen products.

These are the non-woven bags used for banana and vegetable plantation and constructions, polyethylene fishing net, polyethylene screen, leno bag for garlic and onion, twine, palay net, polyurethane foam for upholstery, bed mattress set and pillows.

To streamline work, GPII's products are divided into agriculture and consumer or packaging divisions with the 71-year-old Jose at the helm as president and chair of the board.

The next generation

While leaving it to the younger generations of Juantongs and Ongs to manage the company's day-to-day operations, Jose still inspires the company with the vision of becoming the number one agro-industrial manufacturing firm in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Julian, who graduated with a degree in Applied Economics at the De La Salle University in Manila, handles the finance and human resource department while Henry Juantong, who graduated with a management degree from University of San Agustin in Iloilo City, handles the sales and operation department.

Julian says their grandfather Ong Juantong would insist on observing strong familial ties and practice of Chinese values handed down by their forefathers.

Among the patriarch Juantong's values are "profit with honor, honor thy debt of gratitude, listen to the wisdom of the elders, and protect family reputation."

These, said Julian, explains why despite the lure of greater profit in other places, the Juantongs will always invest in Iloilo—the place that comforted and nurtured them to become the respected family and business that they are today.

BROADESTSHEET

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VISITING WOUNDED TROOPS
President Macapagal-Arroyo talks with Pfc. Moneth John Daniel, one of the Marines wounded in the Basilan battle that also killed 14 other soldiers, at the Camp Navarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City. Earlier, the President held a command conference with top military commanders of the region. RAFFY LERMA

GMA has until today to fill vacant SC seat

By Jerome Aning

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo may not be able to fill up today the remaining vacancy at the Supreme Court but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez sees nothing wrong with it.

"Any failure on her part should not be taken against her, given that she has tried to comply with the constitutional requirement before," Gonzalez told reporters, referring to Ms Arroyo's appointment of Sandiganbayan Justice Gregory Ong as Supreme Court associate justice.

But Ong's appointment was held in abeyance due to questions over his citizenship.

Supreme Court spokesman Jose Midas Marquez said it remained the President's prerogative not to appoint yet the 14th associate justice.

"That's the President's lookout—if she does not yet want to appoint. That's her discretion," he said in a separate interview with reporters.

Marquez, however, reminded that the Constitution states that the President must fill up a vacancy in the high court within 90 days.

He noted that the President needed only to select from the list of nominees submitted to her by the Judicial and Bar Council.

Gonzalez, a member of the JBC, said that Ong might still be reappointed by the President should Ong be able to prove his Filipino citizenship in due time.

"If he is able to comply with the requirements of the Court, why not? That's up to the President, let's leave that to her discretion," he explained.

Last July 3, the Supreme Court justices unanimously enjoined Ong from accepting an appointment to the vacant slot at the high court until he has completed the correction of his birth certificate which stated that he is a Chinese citizen.

Ong was supposed to fill up the seat vacated by Associate Justice Romeo Callejo Sr., who retired on April 28 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70.

On May 16, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced Ong's appointment among the eight nominees submitted by the JBC.

The next day, however, Malacañang held the appointment in abeyance following questions regarding Ong's citizenship.

The groups Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan foundations sought to annul Ong's appointment for being unconstitutional and arbitrary. The high court, in assuming jurisdiction over the controversy, said there was no indication that Ong's appointment has been canceled by the Office of the President.

What's for Gringo is not for Magdalo

By DJ Yap

STATE PROSECUTORS YESTERDAY said the absolution of Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan did not apply to any of the junior officers charged with staging the Oakwood mutiny four years ago this month.

"Honasan was not the leader of the July 27, 2003 coup d'etat, not the mastermind, but a leader among many, a mastermind among several," the prosecutors told Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148.

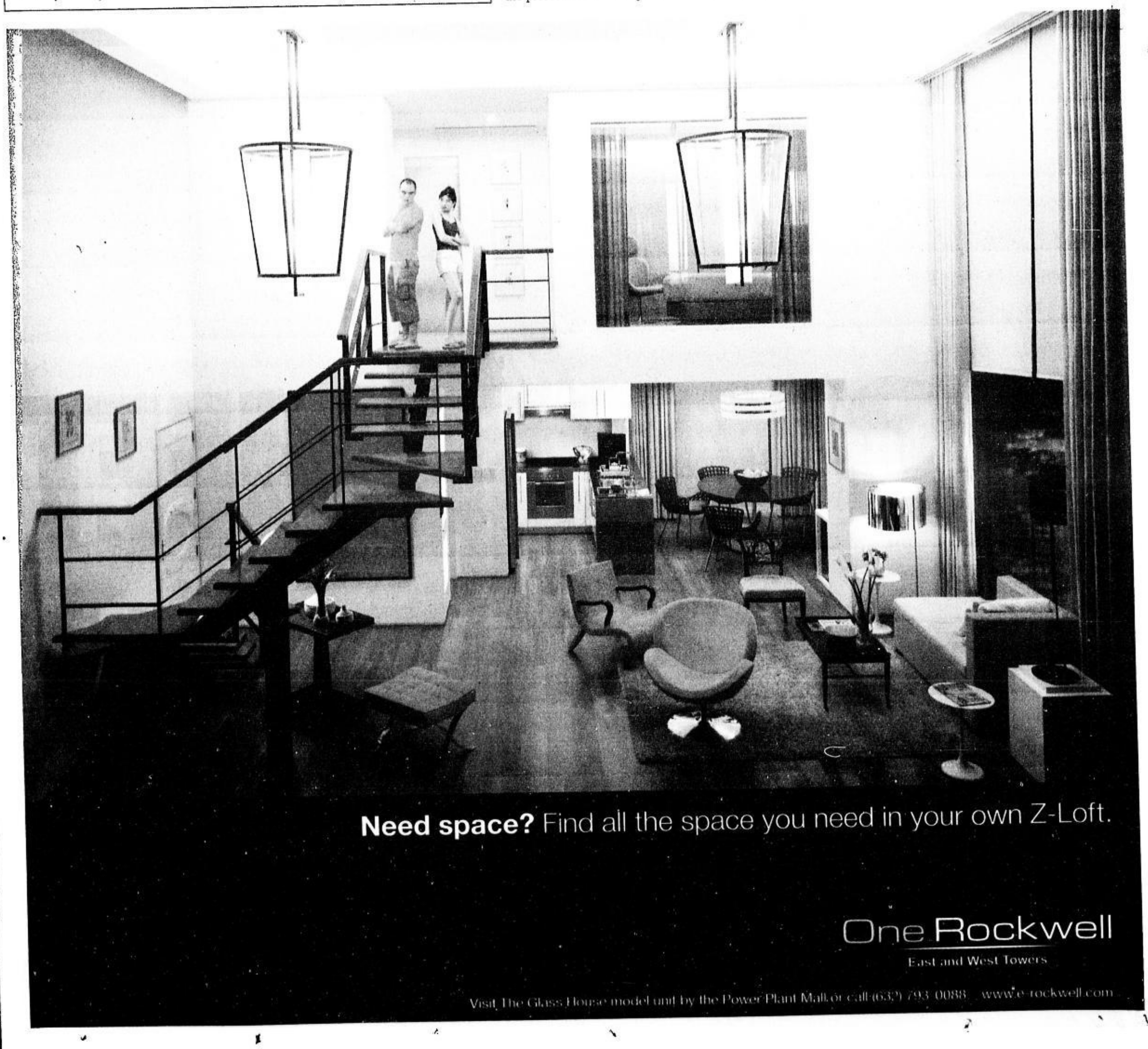
"...Thus the non-indictment of one of the leaders does not ipso facto mean the acquittal of the other leaders," the panel led by Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon and State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera said.

In an eight-page opposition, the prosecutors asked the court to deny the supplemental demurrer to evidence filed by 13 of the 31 junior officers on trial for coup d'etat.

The 13 accused included Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, two of the more prominent members of the Magdalo group.

Their co-accused, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the rest of the accused were not included in the motion, as their lawyers said they were content with the original demurrer.

The officers, in their supplement to the demurrer of evidence, cited the exoneration of Honasan as grounds for their own absolution.



A plus METRO

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NO ENTRY FOR SPOILED MEAT

2 Valenzuela checkpoints up

By Nancy Carvajal and TJ Burgonio

SATELLITE MEAT INSPECTION POINTS were set up in two areas in Valenzuela City last night to ensure that no infected meat is able to enter Manila.

Dr. Basil Sison, head of the City Veterinary Office (CVO), said the inspection sites were put up after a request of the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) coursed through City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian.

Valenzuela City is the gateway to Metro Manila for foodstuff from Central and Northern Luzon.

Sison said the request stemmed from a warning from the Department of Agriculture of an outbreak of hog cholera in some areas in Bulacan province and the proliferation of "double-dead meat" in Metro Manila markets.

Red alert

The NMIS raised on Friday a hog cholera "red alert" in Metro Manila and five regions of Luzon after the disease spread to backyard pig farms in Bulacan and Pampanga.

Bulacan, a hog-growing center, is a major pork supplier of Metro Manila.

Sison said preventing the entry of infected meat would help prevent the spread of hog cholera in the city.

The checkpoints will be manned by CVO staff members in coordination with the Philippine National Police.

Sison said even meat products from accredited hog farms and slaughter houses would be closely monitored.

He said shipments, even when they had the required documentation like slaughter house stamps and meat certification, would be inspected.

"The condition of the meat at the time of the inspection would be given more weight," Sison said.

He added that contaminated meat would be confiscated and the people transporting it would be investigated.

Those found guilty of transporting contaminated meat would be charged with violation of Republic Act No. 9296 or the Meat Inspection Code, the Consumers Act, and a city ordinance.

Hog cholera is highly infectious and spreads rapidly. But the outbreak of the disease in some areas in Bulacan would not affect the supply and prices of pork in Metro Manila, Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) officials said yesterday.

Davinio Catbagan, BAI officer in charge, said the outbreak was confined to only a "few farms."

Affected

So far, less than five percent of 2,250 affected hogs died from the disease that broke out last week in backyard farms in at least 32 barangays in Bulacan, Catbagan said.

Catbagan said the BAI had mounted a campaign to prevent the spread of the disease.

"We are assuring consumers that prices of pork are expected to remain stable despite the outbreak because the disease is only confined to a few farms, and hence, will have no effect on the supply of hogs to Metro Manila."

He assured growers that cholera could be prevented by vaccination.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap ordered the BAI to look into the status of the hog vaccination program in Bulacan. He directed the provincial veterinarian to submit a report on the possible causes of the outbreak.

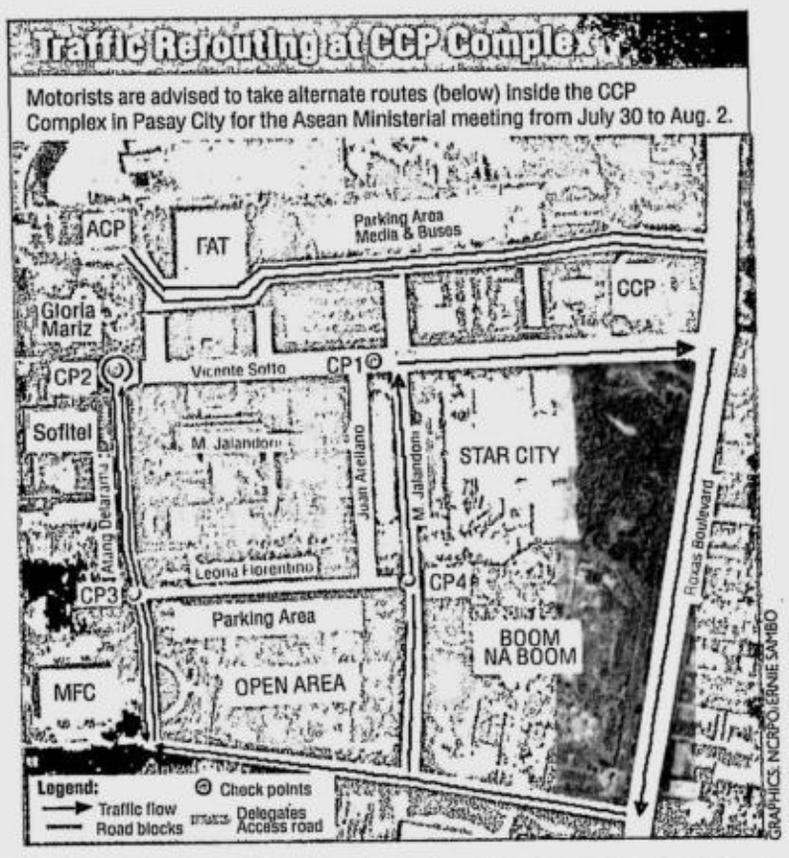
Yap also ordered that transport of breeders and hogs for slaughter should be covered by shipping permits and monitored at veterinary quarantine checkpoints.

"The selling and transport of sick and affected animals is strictly prohibited," Yap stressed in his directive.

Yap ordered DA regional executive directors to coordinate closely with provincial, city and municipal veterinarians in a massive information campaign on measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

Catbagan said the outbreak would not affect the government's plan to apply for a global declaration of the Philippines as a foot and mouth disease-free country next year with the Animal Health Organization (AHO).

The AHO is expected to vote on the application when it holds its general assembly in May 2008.



Coed dies in Pasay fire

By Julie M. Aurelio

AN 18-YEAR-OLD COLLEGE STUDENT DIED IN an early morning fire in Pasay City yesterday.

Arson investigators are looking into the cause of the hour-long blaze that killed Krisnel Reyes, reportedly a nursing student.

Reyes' mother Virginia and her two younger brothers Christopher and Kent sustained minor injuries.

Arson investigator FO3 Renato Recto said the fire, which reached the second alarm, started at around 6:01 a.m. at 2162 Villaruel St., Laging Handa Village.

The blaze later spread to a nearby house, affecting three families and destroying at least P500,000 worth of property.

Four trucks from the Pasay City fire department responded to the fire, which was finally put out at around 7 a.m.

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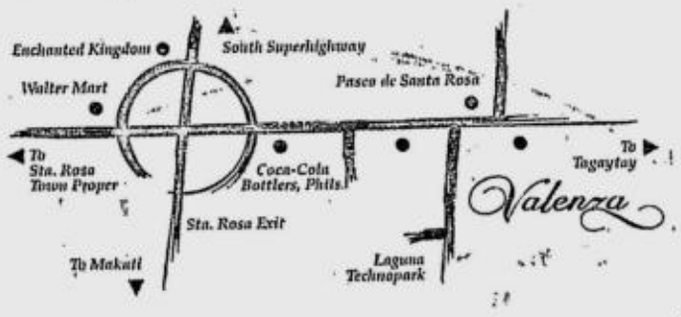

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Las Piñas wins int'l environment award

By Julie M. Aurelio

WATER LILIES WON FOR LAS Piñas City the "Best Practice Award for 2006" given by the Dubai International Awards and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN Habitat).

The aquatic plant used to clog the 56-kilometer stretch of the Las Piñas and Zapote rivers.

For five years, members of the "Sagip Ilog project" dredged and cleaned the city's dying rivers. They cleared the waterways of garbage and planted bamboo and other plants along the riverbanks.

Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar added a twist to the river rehabilitation program—finding profitable uses for the water lilies.

"No one liked the task of taking the water lilies out of the water. But by using the water lily stalks as raw material, people saw they would get something out of it," Villar said.

The congresswoman marked her 57th birthday yesterday by opening another basket-weaving center at the second Las Piñas City Water Lily Festival.

The award came as a surprise to Villar, who said she did not know the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had nominated the Sagip Ilog project.

The Dubai International Award for Best Practices (DIABP) honors admirable efforts in environmental management, infrastructure, communication and transportation in over 140 countries.

Unlike other dredging projects, Sagip Ilog combined cleaning, greening, and livelihood to stand out among 650 nominees.

METROBRIEFS

Caught in the act

A MANILA policeman who allegedly extorted P10,000 from a woman he accused of stealing his motorcycle, was caught in an entrapment operation at Bonifacio Shrine yesterday. Members of the Manila City Hall Special Operations Group arrested PO3 Renato Ramirez of Station 2 SOG after parking attendant Liwanag Tolentino sought their help. Ramirez will be charged with robbery extortion. *Allison W. Lopez*

Anti-money laundering briefing on July 31

INFOSERVE Inc., in partnership with AMI Global Compliance Inc., will conduct an executive briefing on "Global Financial Environment Under the Anti-Money Laundering Regulations" on July 31, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Makati B Function Room of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. For inquiries, call Rose Refuela at 817-6630 / 8187981/ 0917-8238186 or Amy Singson at 0920-9548937, or fax your confirmation to 812-9448.

QC builds IT center for public school studes

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FOUR-STORY INFORMATION and communication technology building is being constructed in Quezon City.

The project aims to make the city's public elementary and high school students globally competitive.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the building, located at the San Francisco High School grounds in Bago Bantay, Project 6, would also house physics laboratories and speech centers.

"There is a need to put up physics laboratories and speech centers for the well-rounded development of the city's 300,000 elementary and high school students," Belmonte said in a statement.

The mayor said all available spaces in the city's school facilities would be used for technological infrastructure.

Dr. Victoria Fuentes, City Schools Division superintendent, said the city government was putting up special science schools to develop and enhance the students' science proficiency.

"We will soon transform five schools into special science schools for grades 1 and 2 pupils that would be handled by science-trained teachers," Fuentes said.

POLICE examine the vehicle carrying Christopher Lumbang who was ambushed shortly after he withdrew money from a bank. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bank client shot dead by armed bikers in Tondo

By Tina G. Santos

A 27-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO HAD just withdrawn money from a bank in Tondo, Manila, died after he was shot by one of four motorcycle-riding armed men yesterday morning.

Christopher Lumbang, a marketing manager, died while undergoing treatment at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital, police said.

Lumbang died from multiple gunshot wounds in different parts of the body.

The incident happened around 11:15 a.m. on Honorio Lopez Boulevard, near the boundary of Manila and Navotas City.

The victim, accompanied by his cousin, Michael Cunanan, had just withdrawn P250,000 in payroll money from a Metro Bank branch. Police said four motorcycle-riding men suddenly appeared as the two boarded their vehicle.

Lumbang refused to open the door, prompting one of the suspects to shoot him. He died while undergoing treatment at the hospital. The suspects managed to escape from pursuing policemen.

Various forms of stupidity

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HOW STUPID OF MALACAñang to ask the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to turn over its members who allegedly killed and then mutilated the Marines in Basilan two weeks ago!

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said the gesture of turning over MILF members who took part in the ambush would show the rebel group's sincerity in forging peace.

The MILF has been consistently violating the truce for a long time by coddling the Abu Sayyaf and kidnap-for-ransom groups and ambushing government troops.

What makes Malacañang think the MILF would show sincerity in honoring the peace talks with the government this time?

These people look like they don't want peace. When they're not fighting the government, they're fighting among themselves.

The government should not only oblige the MILF with a fight, but crush it so that it won't give any more trouble.

* * *

The MILF leadership has bragged that its men took part in the ambush, although it denied they mutilated the dead Marines.

My sources in Basilan allege it was the men of Rep. Wahab Akbar, former governor, who did the mutilation. Nevertheless, the MILF should be faulted for failing to stop their men from mutilating the dead Marines.

I'm surprised why the government is quiet about the alleged participation of Akbar's men in the ambush.

Is the government trying to protect Akbar?

* * *

Are car dealers not liable for fooling a customer into buying a defective car?

A Philippine Airlines pilot complained to "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" (yes, we still receive complaints even if we're still out of radio and TV at the moment) about the alleged refusal of O.N. Asia Motors Corp. on Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo), Makati to replace a Mazda car that he claimed was defective.

Capt. Robert Carranza said he found the defect—the rough surface on the car's roof—a day after he bought it from the dealer.

Carranza said the dealer admitted a "minor oversight" on their part but refused to replace the car with one with no defect.

The dealer said its body and paint section "simply overlooked" the defect and offered to fix it. But the pilot insists he should have a new replacement.

"What about the other parts of the car that are not visible to the eye like screws and bolts that may be missing or improperly tightened, the underchassis or the engine itself, plus the fact that I bought a brand-new car that should be absolutely defect-free?" said Carranza.

Isn't there any law against this type of car dealer?

* * *

Banco de Oro (BDO) should improve its system of receiving reports about their clients as this reflects on the bank's efficiency.

Ruby del Castillo, wife of my very dear friend Tom who died of cancer last year, complained of being hustled by BDO representatives on the renewal of his credit card even after being told that Tom had already passed away.

Tom didn't owe the bank a single centavo for his credit card, only the annual membership fee that had to be renewed.

What hurt most was when the bank sent an investigator to check whether Tom was really dead even after being sent a death certificate.

If that was not stupidity, I don't know what is!

Inquirer is number one.

Yes, you're seeing double.
Two reputable research agencies,
Synovate and Nielsen, have confirmed
that Inquirer is number one based
on their non-commissioned surveys.

Thank you.

Source: All English Daily Readers in Greater Manila Area, read yesterday. Base: Synovate Media Atlas 2006 2007 (combined Waves 1-4).
Source: Nielsen Media Index 2007 Wave 1. Based on urban national yesterday broadsheet readers.

Car bomb kills 25 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A POWERFUL CAR bomb rocked central Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 25 bystanders, wounding more than 75 and destroying a row of shops in a busy commercial district.

Meanwhile, the US military announced the deaths of eight more of its troops, including four who were killed in a single day of fighting in restive Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, scene of a month-old offensive.

An AFP journalist said he saw dozens of casualties being carried away from the site of the Baghdad blast, which partially demolished one building and left several vehicles in flames.

Medics at nearby Ibn Nafees hospital said they had received 15 corpses and were treating 64 casualties, including many women and children caught outside in the popular shopping area on the eve of Friday's day of prayers.

The bomb exploded in a loop of the Tigris river just south of the fortified area which houses the US embassy and Iraqi government offices, sending up a column of black smoke and rattling windows 2 kilometers away.

Car bombings are an almost daily danger in Baghdad. Attacks like Thursday's—which closely followed a similar blast that killed six in the northern city of Kirkuk—are usually blamed on Sunni insurgents.

More than four years since the US-led invasion of March 2003, Iraq is in the grip of a series of overlapping conflicts pitting the embattled security forces and their US allies against a range of rebel and militia groups.

One of the main fronts is in Diyala, where 10,000 US and Iraqi troops have pressed a month-long assault against al-Qaida strongholds, and where three marines and a sailor were killed on Tuesday.

On the same day another soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in the capital, the military said in a separate statement. *AFP*

ENDANGERED TRIBE
Penan tribe leader Along Sega, stands among members of the tribe in the forest of Sarawak on Borneo in this photo. The ancient tribe of hunters and gatherers are being threatened by severe poverty, logging and oil palm projects. AP

Nasa probes sabotage of shuttle computer

CAPE CANAVERAL—NASA IS INvestigating sabotage of a noncritical computer due to be flown to the International Space Station aboard the space shuttle Endeavour, which was cleared to lift off on Aug. 7, the US space agency said on Thursday.

The damage to wiring in an electronics box was intentional and obvious, Nasa's associate administrator for space operations, Bill Gerstenmaier told reporters at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Nasa found cut cables inside the electronics box, which was being prepared to be loaded into Endeavour's crew cabin for transport to the $100 billion space station.

Nasa was told of the sabotage by a subcontractor, which Gerstenmaier declined to identify, citing an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General.

"It was disclosed to us as soon as the event occurred, about a week and a half ago," Gerstenmaier said. "The damage is very obvious, easy to detect. It's not a mystery to us." Nasa managers believe there is ample time to repair the computer before Endeavour's liftoff on Aug. 7. The shuttle is scheduled to spend up to 10 days at the space station to install a new structural beam and deliver supplies.

The computer, which is to be located in the US laboratory Destiny, is designed to collect and relay data from sensors on the station's external trusses. The sensors detect vibrations and forces, such as micrometeoroid impacts. Currently, the data is stored in the sensors and not immediately accessible.

"If we don't get it repaired in time, we'll fly without it," said Nasa spokesperson Kyle Herring. "It's not an issue." The same manufacturer also builds gauges for the shuttle's wings and other station computer components, Gerstenmaier said.

No other damage was detected.

The damage is believed to be the first act of sabotage of flight equipment Nasa has discovered, Gerstenmaier and shuttle program manager Wayne Hale said.

Endeavour, fresh from a complete overhaul and the last of Nasa's three remaining shuttles to return to flight following the 2003 Columbia disaster, is due to carry out a construction mission to the space station.

It will be Nasa's second shuttle flight of the year.

Endeavour was almost totally rebuilt during its overhaul and was like a new space shuttle, Hale said.

"It's like driving a new car off the showroom floor," he said.

Endeavour's seven crew members include teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan, who trained 22 years ago as the backup to teacher-in-space Christa McAuliffe, one of the astronauts who died when Challenger blew up at liftoff in January 1986. *Reuters*

Obama escalates feud with Clinton

WASHINGTON—DEMOCRAT Barack Obama escalated a feud with Hillary Clinton on Thursday by accusing her of backing a foreign policy toward hostile nations no different from that of US President George W. Bush.

At the heart of the most dramatic spat thus far between the leading Democrats in the presidential race is whether the next president should be willing to meet the leaders of countries that pose major challenges to the United States: Iran, Syria, North Korea, Venezuela and Cuba.

Bush has avoided meeting those leaders and permits only limited diplomatic contacts with some of their governments.

At a CNN/YouTube debate on Monday, Obama said he would be willing to meet the leaders in his first year in office.

Clinton said she would not, then touched a nerve on Tuesday by calling Obama's position "irresponsible and frankly naive." "I don't want a continuation with Bush-Cheney," Obama said on the campaign trail in New Hampshire. "I don't want Bush-Cheney light. I want a fundamental change." Clinton fired back on CNN: "Well, this is getting kind of silly. I've been called a lot of things in my life but I've never been called George Bush or Dick Cheney certainly." She added: "I have been absolutely clear that we've got to return to robust and effective diplomacy. But I don't want to see the power and prestige of the United States president put at risk by rushing into meetings with the likes of Chavez and Castro and Ahmadinejad." *Reuters*

Cuban leader reaches out to the US

CAMAGUEY—CUBA OFFERED on Thursday to hold talks with the United States, as the communist country marked its first national holiday without ailing leader Fidel Castro—but the overture was swiftly rebuffed by Washington.

Interim President Raul Castro led Cuba's national day festivities as his convalescing brother, last seen in public exactly a year ago, missed the event for the first time.

Raul Castro, 76, extended an olive branch to Cuba's longtime nemesis during his address at National Rebellion Day festivities in this town 540 kilometers southeast of Havana.

Some 100,000 people crowded onto Revolution Square, waving red, white and blue Cuban flags, many dressed in red shirts, to listen to Raul Castro, who was flanked by a photograph of his brother. *AFP*

Taliban extends hostage deadline

GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN—TALiban militants extended until noon Friday the deadline to negotiate the release of 22 kidnapped South Koreans, as an envoy headed to Afghanistan to spearhead efforts to free them.

The moves came as one of the hostages made an emotional plea for help in a telephone interview with a US television network, after the Taliban said the captives had been spared death under an earlier "final" deadline.

The militants agreed to the new deadline following a request from the Afghan government, Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP from an unknown location.

"The deputy interior minister asked us to give them extra time until tomorrow 12:00 to be able to handle the issue. The Taliban leading council decided to give them time until tomorrow (Friday) noon," Ahmadi said.

The head of the Afghan government delegation negotiating the release of the South Koreans also confirmed the new timings.

"We managed to extend the deadline ... We are trying with all of our ability to win the safe and sound release of the South Koreans," said Waheedullah Mujadadi.

The extension comes after the "final" deadline set by the Taliban for a prisoner swap for the hostages passed at 1 a.m. Wednesday. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Contingency plans for Iraq pullout

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is making contingency plans for a gradual US withdrawal of troops from Iraq, according to US Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who called the planning a "priority." In a letter delivered on Tuesday to Sen. Hillary Clinton, a New York Democrat and presidential candidate who tangled with the Pentagon to learn whether such plans exist, Gates said he was actively involved in drafting them. "You may rest assured that such planning is indeed taking place with my active involvement as well as that of senior military and civilian officials and our commanders in the field," Gates said. Pentagon spokesperson Bryan Whitman stressed the Pentagon was not planning for a quick or wholesale withdrawal of forces. *Reuters*

60 Taliban killed in Afghan clashes

KABUL—Afghan and US-led forces killed more than 50 Taliban in a 12-hour battle in the nation's opium-growing heartland, while a soldier and 10 rebels died in separate incidents, officials said on Thursday. The Nato soldier was killed in the restive south, bringing to 121 the number of foreign soldiers killed this year, Nato spokesperson John Thomas told AFP. The British soldier was involved in an operation to remove the insurgent Taliban from the Gereshk valley in insurgency-hit Helmand provice, the defense ministry said in London. Details of how he died were not available. *AFP*

Terror charge vs Indian doctor dropped

SYDNEY—Australia dropped charges against an Indian doctor accused of involvement in failed British car bombings and released him from custody on Friday, admitting mistakes were made rushing the case to court. But Australia's top police officer refused to apologize to Mohamed Haneef after the embarrassing backdown and the medic still faces possible deportation as he adjusts to house arrest after almost four weeks in custody. Red-faced officials said they withdrew the charge that Haneef "recklessly" supported the terror group behind attempted bombings in Britain last month after a review revealed mistakes in rushing the case to court. It also found there was not enough evidence to support a conviction. *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF 2007 INTEGRATED HANDLING & TRUCKING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION VII

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2007* intends to apply the sum of *Five Million Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (P 5,270,400.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of 2007 Integrated Handling & Trucking Services for NFA Region VII.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of 2007 Integrated Handling & Trucking Services for NFA Region VII. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2007, or upon completion of the services, whichever is applicable. The handling and trucking services cover the following:

Lot #	Province/Route	Handling Volume (50 kgs)	Trucking Volume (50 kgs)	ABC (Pesos)
1	Bohol Tagbilaran Port to Warehouse Tapal Port to FSC Ubay	1,016,000	240,000 224,000 16,000	2,774,800.00
2	Negros Oriental Dumaguete Port to Warehouse Dumaguete to Guihulngan Whse.	850,000	215,000 165,000 50,000	2,495,600.00
	TOTAL			P 5,270,400.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders must have a Largest Single Contract that is completed and accomplished within the twelve month period between 2004 up to the present which is similar in nature and the value thereof must be at least 50% of the ABC. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting July 28 to August 09, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Five Thousand Pesos per Lot (P5,000.00/Lot)*. The method of payment will be in cash.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 10, 2007 @ 9:00 AM*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *August 24, 2007 not later than 9:00 AM*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid in the following form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash/Cashier's/Manager's Check	One Percent (1%)
GSIS Surety Bond marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***August 24, 2007 @ 9:00 AM*** *at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr, Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders and their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bid most advantageous to the government or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
RAUL B. CHONG
Banilad, Cebu City
Tel No. 032- 232-1939
email address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
Fax no. 032-233-6095
website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) RAUL B. CHONG
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI – July 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
TECHNOSERVE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. 19/F Export Bank Plaza, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Sung Oh Chang	IT Engineer
SINO BEIJING FOOT SPA CO. U L3-008 Silver City Auto Mall, Frontera Verde Drive, Ugong, Pasig City	Hong Zhao	Assistant Manager
JULIANA KARAOKE BAR AND RESTAURANT INC. 2822 P. Celle St. cor. EDSA Ext., Pasay City	Lee Young Joung	Operation Manager
JULIANA KARAOKE BAR AND RESTAURANT INC. 2822 P. Celle St. cor. EDSA Ext., Pasay City	Myounghee Kim	Assistant Operation Manager
TRENDY GAMES CORP. 43/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ying Kit Chan	Duty Manager
TRENDY GAMES CORP. 43/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kinphong Spencer Choi	Assistant General Manager
TRENDY GAMES CORP. 43/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Wai Zak Choy	General Manager
TRENDY GAMES CORP. 43/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Cyril Sze Ning Yuen	Operations Director
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LIFE GAMES TRADING CO. LTD. 303-305 Lavezares St., Tondo, Manila	Huayi Zeng	Operation Manager
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OLIMPIAD LEARNING CENTER INC. Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Dong Hwa Park	General Manager
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KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Kibom Han	General Manager, Technical Group
RENAISSANCE MAKATI CITY HOTEL, MANILA 11/F Pacific Star Bldg., Makati Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Sujeet Kumar Sarvotham	Director of Operations

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ISABEL G. PANGANIBAN-ORTIGUERRA
Acting Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

(PDI – July 28, 2007)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2007

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

IN EUROPE

A FIRE burns next to houses in the village of Mavriki near the town of Egio, southern Greece on Wednesday. Many thousands of hectares of forest land have been torched in Greece. The fires ignited in tinderbox conditions worsened by last winter's extended drought. AP

Fires in Europe, floods in Asia

Forests, farmlands razed

ATHENS—MASSIVE WILDFIRES RAGED out of control across Greece on Thursday after killing three people overnight in the south, burning through villages and forests and stretching firefighting services to the limit.

Across southern Europe from Italy to Slovakia, fires consumed forests, farmland and brush. But there was some respite as a weeklong heat wave blamed for dozens of deaths in the region began to abate.

In Greece, hundreds of firefighters and soldiers were tackling 100 fires, 15 of which were burning out of control, including on the holiday islands of Chios and Cephallonia, where an estimated 4,500 hectares of forest were destroyed.

Four villages were evacuated in the southern Peloponnese area of Messinia, while the country's largest blaze, near the town of Aegio, killed three elderly people, authorities said. Local residents said up to 60 homes were destroyed.

With firefighters struggling to cope, Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis appealed to Russia for help, and President Vladimir Putin said he would send firefighting planes on Friday, the prime minister's office said. It did not give details on how many Russian aircraft would be sent. *AP*

IN ASIA

AN AERIAL view of the floods that hit Morowali district in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia on July 27. About 85 people have died and nearly 8,000 people displaced from their homes. REUTERS

Thousands homeless across Asia

BEIJING—ASIA'S MONSOON MISERY HAS spread to Nepal, leaving thousands of people homeless, while more rain is expected to bring further chaos to China's drowned southwest, where many have already lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

Rescuers dropped relief supplies to hundreds of people in Indonesia's Sulawesi island on Friday after days of torrential rain triggered landslides and floods.

About 85 people have died and nearly 8,000 people displaced from their homes in central Sulawesi. A relief official said authorities had not been able to pull out many bodies because of a lack of heavy machinery and equipment.

In China, the toll is far higher, with more than 500 people killed across this country in floods this summer.

Meteorologists forecast more downpours for the Guangxi region and the provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan where floods and related disasters have already taken a heavy toll.

"The possibility of landslides and mud and rock flows is high and preventive measures should be taken," the center said on its website (www.nmc.gov.cn).

The disaster in China has failed to gain world attention surrounding floods in England in which eight deaths have been reported.

This year's monsoon has also caused flooding in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and IndoChina, straining national disaster relief agencies.

In mountainous Nepal, floods have destroyed crops and disrupted transport and electricity supplies across the country, officials and media reports said on Friday.

Around 2,500 houses have been washed away in the Himalayan nation's southern plains, forcing residents to flee to higher grounds after week-long heavy rains, local media said.

Officials said floods and landslides have killed about 40 people in Nepal since June when the annual monsoon rains began.

An official at the weather forecasting office said rain would continue for another two to three days.

In Bangladesh, monsoon floods continued to spread, inundating vast areas in 30 of the country's 64 administrative districts, officials said on Friday.

Several rivers, including the Jamuna and Brahmaputra, have burst their banks, while others were also rising, following heavy rains over the past week, officials at the Bangladesh Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said.

"Thousands of people have been marooned or displaced. We have opened flood shelters at several places and are bracing for the worst," said Ibrahim Khalil, deputy commissioner (administrator) of Sirajgan district, one of the worst-hit areas north of the capital Dhaka.

In Brunei, troops are helping repair about 200 homes in capital's famed floating village after the worst storm in 10 years swept through earlier this week. *Reuters*

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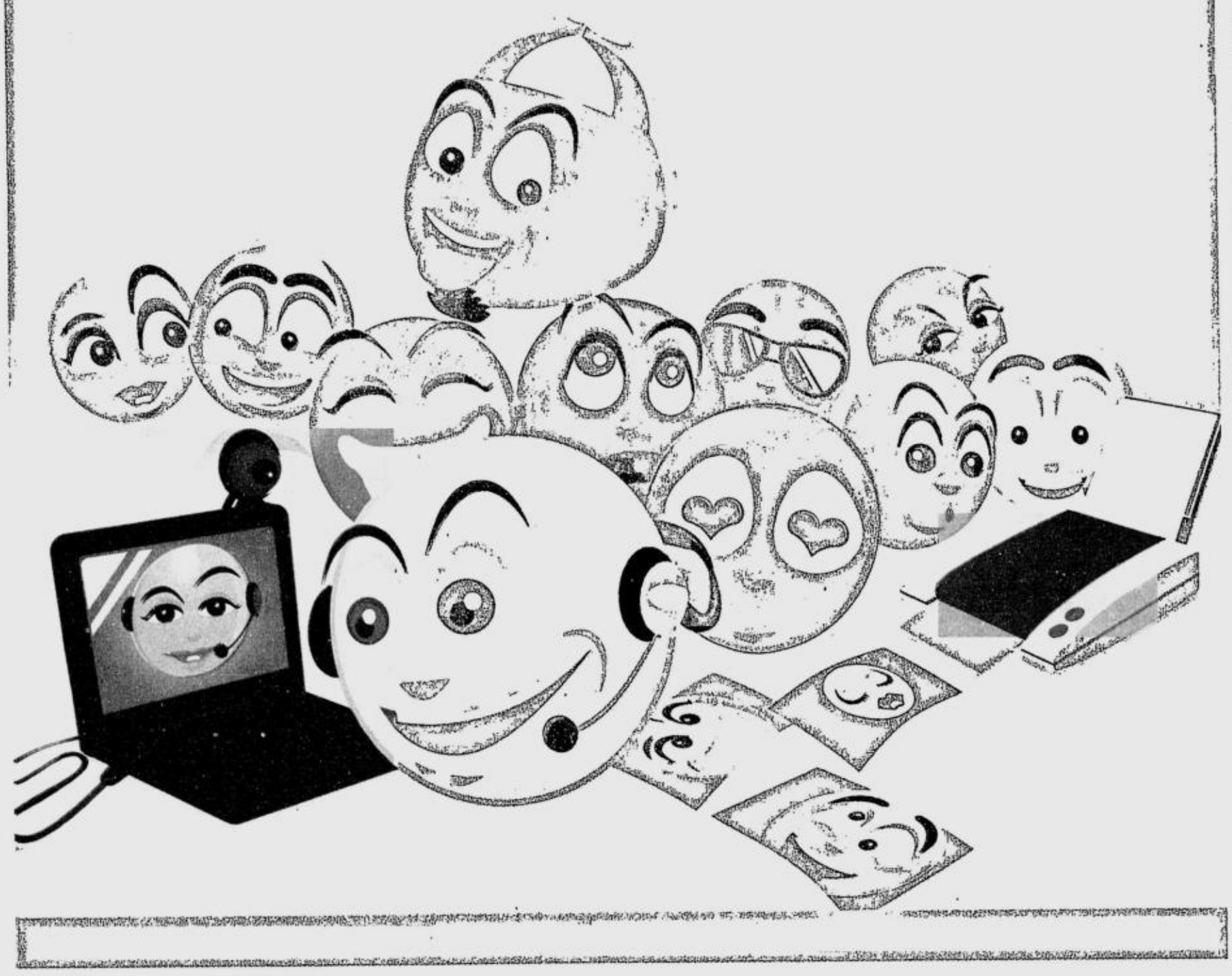

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6112, Series of 2007

WHAT'S INSIDE

☐ Guevarra to the rescue as Knights escape /A25

SPORTS

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■ Tour's fate hinges on Contador/A26

RP Dozen starts Olympic quest

Yap, De Ocampo, Dela Cruz out as Filipino cagers battle Iranians

By Francis Ochoa

TOKUSHIMA, JAPAN—COMMIT THESE NAMES TO memory.

Asi Taulava. Mark Caguioa. Danny Seigle. Jimmy Alapag. Dondon Hontiveros. Kelly Williams. Gabe Norwood. Kerby Raymundo. Jayjay Helterbrand. Mick Pennisi. Erik Menk. Renren Ritualo.

Upon their shoulders rests the country's Olympic dream.

And oh, add four more names: coach Chot Reyes, the basketball overlord who dared dream big, plus Ranidel de Ocampo, Tony dela Cruz and James Yap.

FIBA ASIA 2007
Game Saturday
Philippines vs. Iran
Basketball TV
—7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
RPN—5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Everything starts Saturday for a group of pricey Philippine Basketball Association superstars as they open the country's bid to nail a ticket to Beijing 2008 via the Fiba Asia men's basketball championship.

The San Miguel-Philippines squad, as they are collectively known, takes on Iran at 6 p.m. (5 p.m in Manila) Saturday at the Tokushima municipal gymnasium here.

A victory over the vastly improved Middle Eastern squad gets half the job done as far as the first phase of the mission is concerned—getting to the quarterfinals.

Bracketed in what has been described as the Group of Death, a victory over the Iranians will put the Filipinos in a situation where they need just another win in their next two games to advance.

After Iran, San Miguel-RP faces a China squad that will be beefed up, at the most, by four China Team A standouts, and then a Jordan team still on a high after ruling the recent Jones Cup in Taiwan.

"At least now, we know how Iran plays and we don't fear Jordan anymore," said coach Reyes, who emerged from a practice with the nationals before heading off to the managers' meeting where the team submitted its final roster.

De Ocampo, Dela Cruz and Yap missed the cut for the final roster but will stay on as practice players for the RP team.

De Ocampo became dispensable when Kelly Williams snagged a Philippine passport, enabling Sta. Lucia's PBA Rookie of the Year to represent the country. Dela Cruz also slid to the reserved list after Norwood also acquired a passport.

Ritualo bumped off Yap from the list.

Yap, the 2006 PBA MVP, joined the team late, unlike Ritualo who has been with the squad for a long time and has snugly fit into a 12th-man role.

The preliminary round calls for a single round robin among the four teams in each of the four groups. The top two teams advance to the quarterfinals.

The winner of the tournament books a slot to the Olympics. If China wins the tournament, it tows the second placer along because the Chinese are already assured of a slot in the quadrennial games by virtue of their being hosts.

TAULAVA: Center · CAGUIOA: Guard · SEIGLE: Forward · ALAPAG: Guard · HONTIVEROS: G · WILLIAMS: F

NORWOOD: G · RAYMUNDO: C · HELTERBRAND: G · PENNISI: Center · MENK: Forward · RITUALO: Guard

La Salle has until 7 p.m. today to file game protest

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE COUNTRY'S fiercest basketball rivalry could turn more vicious following reports that La Salle was planning to place under protest its loss last Thursday to Ateneo in the UAAP men's basketball competition.

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	4	0
Ateneo	4	1
La Salle	3	2
UST	3	2
FEU	2	2
NU	2	3
Adamson	0	4
UP	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs UE (Srs)

La Salle said that Ateneo fielded foreign players Kirk Long and Zion Laterre at the same time in the second quarter of the blockbuster showdown where the Eagles edged the Archers, 80-77, in overtime.

Teams may field a maximum of two foreigners in its lineup, but a league rule decrees that only one foreign player can play on court at any given time.

Laterre is a 6-foot-3 Australian forward, while the 6-foot-1 Long is an American rookie guard.

UAAP commissioner Ed Cordero said La Salle has until 7 p.m. today to file a protest.

The game sequence in contention occurred with 4:49 minutes left in the first half.

Upon review, Laterre was inside the court when the game barker announced that Long would come in as a substitute for Jai Reyes during a dead-ball situation.

As play resumed with La Salle bringing the ball down, Long went back to the bench and Reyes rushed inside the court.

The referees called a technical foul at 4:33 as Reyes entered the court without permission from the officials' table. La Salle nailed its two technical free throws.

In a meeting last night, La Salle officials said that "even if Reyes rushed back on the court several seconds later, the violation [has been committed]."

But while the Archers weigh their options, La Salle coach Franz Pumaren said that the Archers will just keep their focus.

The Archers have shaved their

LA SALLE/ A24

Gabi takes place of injured Gorres

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

FILIPINO Z GORRES HAS BEEN diagnosed to be suffering from an eye injury and will be replaced by countryman Diosdado Gabi in the Aug. 11 "World Cup" of boxing pitting fighters from Mexico and the Philippines at the Arco Arena in Sacramento, California.

Gabi, managed by Freddie Roach, will face Gerson Guerrero in a 12-round IBF superflyweight eliminator, with the winner assured of a crack at the world title.

Despite a minor tear in the retina, Gorres has remained confident this would not be the end of his career.

Gabi was originally slated to face Mexican Jose Beranza in an 8-rounder on the World Cup card.

Gabi is training at the Wild Card Gym with his buddy Gerry Peñalosa and the rest of Cebu's ALA Boys who are seeing action in the card.

The event will headline Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista challenging WBO superbantam titlist Daniel Ponce De Leon, while Peñalosa goes up against WBO bantam king Jhonny Gonzales.

Another IBF eliminator pits Bert Batawang against Mexican Gerardo Verde in the junior flyweight division. Verde replaced Francisco Rosas who had been pulled out.

AJ Banal, another top prospect, will face ex-WBC champ Erik Ortiz in an 8-rounder, while Michael Domingo battles Miguel Roman in another 8-rounder.

The country that wins the most fights in this six-bout card captures the Cup, a silverware worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

JENNY Torres (foreground) sets up partner Sheryl Laborte for a "kill" during their game against Raisalyn Noleal and Apple Sebastian in the third leg of the Petron Beach volley tournament at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga. ROMY HOMILLADA

Laborte, pal assert might in Petron tilt

CLARK FIELD, PAMPANGA—SHERYL Laborte reasserted her dominance yesterday at the start of the third leg of the 2007 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Clearwater Country Club here.

Back after a year's absence, Laborte showed her new partner, Jenny Torres, how to dictate the pace as they prevailed over Asian College of Science and Technology students Raisalyn Noleal and Apple Sebastian, 21-7.

They grabbed the early lead in Group A with Arellano University's Cherry Ferrer and Katrina Rimpillo, who beat their classmates Joy Basas and Razellene Pilar, 22-20.

Philippine School of Business Administration bets Jessica Ticala and Angelica Quinlog won over Shiela Garcia and Mary Anne Natividad, 21-9.

The 23-year-old Laborte, now a varsity coach at Miriam College, took control with deftly placed placement shots from the net. She and Torres never looked back after finally braking free from a 6-all count.

The 21-year-old Torres, a prized find from Bacolod, defended well from the back as she and Laborte stormed to a 15-6 advantage.

"We just took control of the ball and remained focused," said Laborte, who won the Battle of Champions two years ago with sister Michelle.

With Laborte attacking at the front thrice, they increased their edge by 10 points twice midway in the game at 16-6 and 17-7.

While Laborte and Torres did it the easy way, Ferrer and Rimpillo were tested to their limit before prevailing.

After six deadlocks, Ferrer and Rimpillo shattered a 20-all count off a pair errors at the net by Basas and Pilar.

Pilar and Basas were all set to score a victory after they forced the last deadlock on Rimpillo's spiking error.

Clearwater Country Club General Manager Mark Lord performed the ceremonial serve in this two-day event backed by Petron, Mikasa Balls, Speedo, ACSAT, Summit Drinking Water, Gatorade, Clearwater Country Club and Arellano University. Solar Sports Entertainment will air the tournament with the assistance of Smart.

Chot's chatter, boxing's bandwagon

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

SACRAMENTO—WHEN ARE WE FINALLY GOING TO get it?

When are we going to realize that we are focusing too much on basketball's foolishness while we are missing other sports' chances?

When are we letting go of a team with no probability of winning an Olympic gold and honestly start looking at the others with prospects of pulling off that feat in our lifetime?

We are busy worrying about our pampered basketball athletes qualifying at the FIBA-Asia championships in Tokushima, Japan this month when we should be bankrolling our boxers, archers, divers, shooters, etc as they hone their skills to the max for Beijing in 2008.

When are we finally going to get it?

We are allowing a single team to monopolize our sports consciousness and shoving others that should be grabbing it.

Worse, we are letting ourselves to be mesmerized by one man's public relations savvy.

We are tolerating a coach who turns his team's failings into sports headlines and the grotesque into good news.

We the sports media are playing into his hands. We can't seem to see through the smoke and mirrors.

We choose to be thunder-struck when he elevates the post-game interview into his stage.

We tend to go along as he feeds the frenzy of our cage-crazed populace with the sound and fury of his quotable quotes.

When are we finally going to get it?

That Chot's chatter is just that. Empty talk.

When are we going to be party poopers for a change?

We need to curb his enthusiasm with our own cynicism.

Even if we hurdle Tokushima based on his now legendary sound bites and his road map of probabilities, terrible fate surely awaits us in Beijing.

We don't need the collective wisdom of our basketball Ph.Ds to figure that one out.

All it takes is common sense.

No need to look back 35 years to realize we don't have a ghost of a chance to medal in the Olympics basketball tournament.

Never had, never will. Be it in 1972, in 2008 and beyond.

When are we finally going to get it?

***

Filipino-American fight fans in the Central Valley and the Bay Area of California are aware of the World Cup of Boxing featuring the finest of boxers from Mexico and the Philippines.

But it remains to be seen if these boxing aficionados will come to Sacramento's Arco Arena on August 11th to watch world championship boxing that does not feature Manny Pacquiao.

Two outstanding Filipino fighters—Boom Boom Bautista and Gerry Peñalosa—are in the main events.

Bautista will box with Daniel Ponce De Leon for the WBO junior featherweight championship. Peñalosa will face Jhonny Gonzales for the WBO bantamweight championship.

Ticket prices for this Golden Boy Promotions card range from $275 for ringside and $40 for the nosebleed seats.

RP's third racetrack coming up

By Musong R. Castillo

WITH RECORD SALES AFTER SIX MONTHS this season, the horseracing industry was greeted with the news that a third racetrack would be opened in the first quarter next year.

This new track, to be built in Carmona, Cavite, is said to rival the best facilities in the world.

Construction is ongoing for the Metro Manila Turf Club, a P1.2 billion edifice that will have, among others, an equine hospital and the ultramodern Polytrack Surface.

The track will be the defining feature of the MMTC, as it puts the club at par with modern racetracks in the world while lowering to the minimum the risk of track injuries to both man and horse.

"I don't want to think of (MMTC) as a third racetrack but as a facility to improve the industry," owner Raymund Puyat told the INQUIRER. "We want to provide the facility to keep the sport of horseracing safe.

"We want to be able to improve the industry as a whole."

The track will have a circumference of exactly two kilometers, making it the longest Polytrack Surface in Southeast Asia.

Kim Elliot, a 47-year-old Australian who built racetracks in Europe, the United States and the Middle East and who owns technology rights to the Polytrack, was in town recently to supervise the construction of the MMTC

The Polytrack Surface, according to Elliot, is made up of silicon sand, his patented "cloph," and elastomeric fibers and recycled rubber that go with blended micro crystalline.

"Horses ride off the top of it," said Elliot, who is also a topnotch breeder. "It feels like a cushion when you step on it yet it looks like sand."

"The impact to jockeys (in case of falls) is lesser," he added. "We don't have to keep breaking the legs of our horses to enjoy the sport."

The MMTC was launched recently and among the notable owners and breeders in attendance were Hermie Esguerra, Henry Cojuangco, Aristeo Puyat, Jake Maderazo and former ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Opening is targeted around March or April pending the establishment of a quarantine system in the country.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Capritiosa (2), El Banquero (3), Malihim (1), Strong Friend (5)

Race 2—(Tri)—Sharp Thunder (1), Doomstead (3), Super Elegant (2)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Yes Sir I'm Yours (2), Memory of Fire (6), Blaze of Glory (7), Wedding Dreams (8)

Race 4—(Tri)—Mano Po/Magic Dancer (3), Powergouse (2), Gen-Gen Spirit (5)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—He's The Man/Tabako (3), Black Mamba (6), Red Scooter (5), Prying Eyes (4)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Rindo Maker/Epic Energy (2), Collective Dreams (1), Express Strike (5), Silver Cho Cho (6)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Save Our Queen/Easy Lover (1), Sinner or Saint (3), Arsenal/Even Storm (2), My Special Moment (7)

Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (5), Power Dance (4), Kawiliwili (3), Carlito's Way (1), Morning Nell (10)

Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Modern Classic (2), China Girl (1), Selfmade (7), Beat D'Ace (6), Hoy Sobra Na (3)

Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Sa Wakas (3), Kapit Bahay (4), Romario (6), Infinite Passion (2)

Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Maglev (1), Macedonian (2), King Anthony (5), Dynamic Duo (8), Mr. Victory (7)

Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Reporter (1), Sol Incivtus (6), Cheilet (10), Raven (8), Goldsphere (7)

Race 13—(Super6/Qrt/Tri)—Scud Missile (9), Bunker Buster (2), BMI Baby (6), Ingay Ingay (7), June Siete (4), Baling Ganda (3)

La Salle has until 7 p.m. to file . . .

From page A23

heads after absorbing two straight losses against the University of the East and Ateneo.

"It's a show of solidarity," said Pumaren. "We want to show that we're one even when we're losing. [Our problem against Ateneo was] we shot poorly at the free throw line. We were playing in spurts and our bench was not really contributing."

Over at Far Eastern, the Tamaraws will make do with a 14-man roster for the rest of the season after dropping sophomore forward Alfred Gerilla from its lineup.

Team officials said Gerilla got the boot after three games due to "actions contrary to the team's best interest."

But all is well for the undefeated UE, which will shoot for a fifth straight triumph versus the winless University of the Philippines at 4 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

In the first game, the National University Bulldogs will try to recover from back-to-back setbacks against the winless Adamson Falcons at 2 p.m.

Home Guaranty Corporation

Office of the President

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting interested parties to submit separate proposals for the disposition of the two projects described below thru outright sale (in bulk or by phase), joint venture, or other similar or variant schemes:

IMPERIAL ROSMONT HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION Brgy. Estanza, Legazpi City, Albay		
Phase	AREA	Minimum Bid Price (Php)
Phase I	66,967.00	69,727,130.00
Phase II	137,313.00	27,462,631.93
Phase III	292,781.00	58,556,268.07
Total	497,061.00	155,746,030.00

IMPERIAL CENTRAL PLAINS Brgy. Bakod Bayan, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija		
Phase	AREA	Minimum Bid Price (Php)
Phase I	44,645.54	78,852,287.25
Phase II	111,120.00	92,028,060.00
Phase III	31,559.00	10,877,800.00
Total	187,324.54	181,758,147.25

The schedules of bidding activities are as follows:

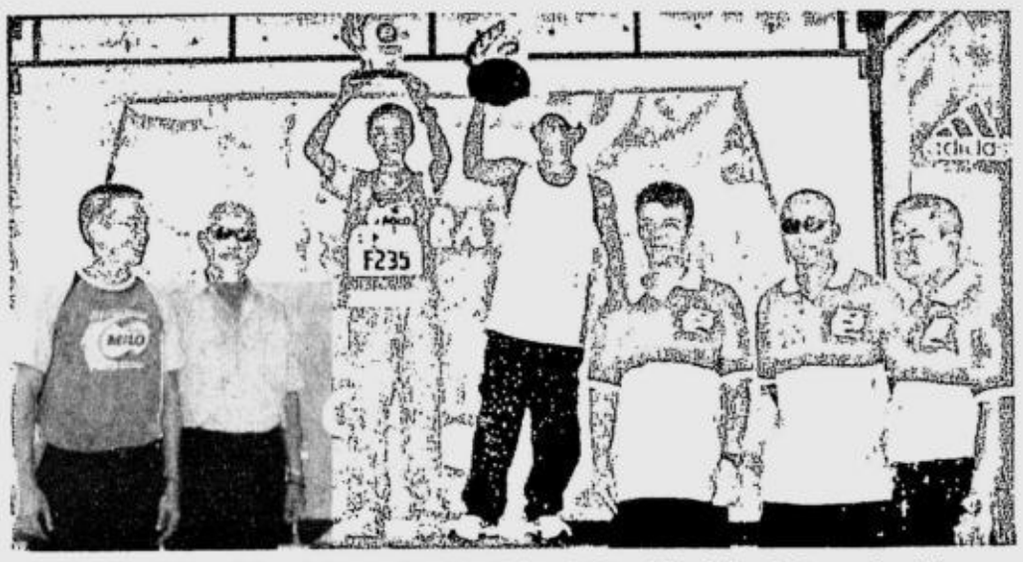
	ACTIVITIES	ROSMONT HEIGHTS Subdivision CY 2007	CENTRAL PLAINS Subdivision CY 2007
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	August 06 to 10	August 06 to 10
2	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 13 to 22	August 13 to 23
3	Pre-Bid Conference	August 16 (3:00 pm, HGC Board Room)	August 16 (2:00 pm, HGC Board Room)
4	Deadline for submission and opening of Eligibility Requirements (pass/fail criteria) (2:00 PM, HGC Board Room)	August 22	August 23
5	Submission of the Bid Proposals	August 31 to September 10	August 31 to September 11
6	Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids (2:00 PM, HGC Board Room)	September 10	September 11

The bidders are advised to inspect the properties to determine their actual conditions. Particulars of the bidding including the bid documents and eligibility requirements can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management Department (AMD) at 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND Pesos (P 25,000.00) for each project** from August 6 to 10, 2007. For further inquiries, please call Mr. Marvyn Galang or Ms. Nemia Mabulay of the AMD at tel. nos. 897-3286 / 897-3290 or visit our office at Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON G. CORPUZ**
Chairperson
Asset Disposition Committee

(PDI - July 28 & Aug. 1, 2007)



NCR LEG WINNERS: Eduardo Buenavista (fourth from left) and Flordeliza Cachero raise their trophies after topping Sunday's men's and women's 42K elimination race of the 31st National Milo Marathon. With them are (from left) Nestle SVP Eugene David, Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, Nestle Philippines CFO Peter Kosznek, Nestle SVP Dennis Austriaco and Milo AVP for Sports Pat Goc-ong.

Tagbilaran Milo Marathon qualifying fires off Sunday

FRESH OFF A RECORD-RIPPING RUN BY EDuardo "Vertek" Buenavista in last week's Metro Manila leg, the 31st National Milo Marathon resumes its provincial tour in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, on Sunday.

About 4,000 runners have enlisted for the 21K elimination race, the 5K fun run and the 3K race for kids 6 to 12 years old where a total cash prize of P159,000 is at stake.

Defending champions Joseph Penales and Gin Adan are expected to defend their titles.

Invited to fire off the runners in front of the Provincial Capitol at 6 a.m is Gov. Erico B. Aumentado assisted by Vice Gov. Ceasar F. Herera. Also invited to grace the awarding ceremonies are board members Ae Damalerio and Jose Veloso, Mayor Dan Neri Lim, Vice Mayor Jose Veloso and Kagawad Kit Uppos.

The 31st Milo Marathon, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas and Department of Tourism, will have 24 legs for the 2007 season. This Sunday's leg is the ninth for the year.

Organizing the elimination run in Tagbilaran is lawyer Dionisio D. Balite and Joel Rosario, both provincial sports coordinators.

Milo AVP for Sports Pat Goc-ong is advising all runners to be at the starting area not later than 5 a.m. for check-in.

Elorde grandson fights tonight

BAI ELORDE, GRANDSON OF THE LEGENDARY Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, will fight tonight in the undercard of the "Boxing Kontra Droga" boxing promotion at the Flash Grand Ballroom of the Elorde Sports Center in Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Elorde, a 22-year-old southpaw, will see action in his third professional fight against Rommel Discalsote in a four-round junior lightweight match.

The main event will have Monico Laurente battling Edgar Gabihan. Before winning his first two fights, Elorde only lost once in 11 amateur outings.

SPORTSWATCH

Manalo No. 1 in Florida

MANALO

FILIPINO ACE MARLON Manalo, the 2005 World Pool Championships semifinalist, topped the 2007 Florida Pro Tour rankings list, according to a report at the Tony Crosby website yesterday.

The 30-year-old Manalo garnered 360 points, 80 points ahead of former US Open champ American Corey Deuel with 280.

Manalo ruled the Semi Florida Pro Tour stop in Palm Harbor last April 28-29 and the Springhill stop last June 2 to 3. He also placed third in the Miami stop held May 5-6.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

P1 Million poker tilt today

PACIFIC POKER PALACE SAID ABOUT A hundred amateur and professional players will slug it out today for the guaranteed P1 million prize in the No Limit Texas Hold 'em Tournament at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Ben dela Cruz of Pacific Poker Palace (PPP) said the P1 million event is the last big tournament this July as big names in the poker world start to arrive for the P25 million Asia Pacific Poker Tournament. The project is joint project between United States-based Poker Star, Pagcor and PPP. For inquiries, call 833-8542 or 854-1305 or visit pacificpokerpalace.com.

Battle of the Big Boys

AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWDOWN OF COCKFIGHT heavyweights happens at Pasay City Cockpit when the "Battle of the Big Boys 7-stag derby" unfolds on Aug. 31.

Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said the event features the one-on-one duel among popular cockers like Patrick Antonio, Boy Marzo, Gerry Ramos, Gov. Ito Ynares, Pol Estrellado, Sonny Lagon, Boy Jiao, the Firefly group and the Primallion brothers of Zamboanga. For inquiries, call 8431890, 8431746 or 8166750.

LPC cockfest today

LEADING GAMECOCK ENTHUSIASTS OF Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Pasay, Las Piñas, Laguna and Cavite will square it off tonight in Las Piñas Coliseum's 3-cock derby.

Hosts Ben Quilatan and Otoy Abarsoza pegged the entry fee at P5,500.

Last Saturday, four participants topped the LPC 3-cock event: Domeng Yao (Royale Salute), Oca Domingo (Malolos July 27), Dicky Lim (Striker) and Tone it entry.

For inquries, call 8731040, 09277101671 or 09267450375 (Rudy or Julius).

Guevarra to the rescue again as Knights escape

SAN Beda standout Sam Ekwe (left) falls on to a Mapua player who bravely keeps possession in yesterday's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PLAYING THE HERO SEEMS TO BE GETTING a habit for high-leaping Rey Guevarra.

For the second straight game, the flashy forward bailed Letran out, this time from the foul line, as he nailed two charities with 10.7 seconds left to lift the Knights past St. Benilde, 51-49, yesterday in the NCAA men's basketball at The Arena.

Fresh from his heroics in the Knights' upset victory over San Beda on Wednesday, Guevarra found himself in the same situation—and rose to the occasion.

Fouled by Garri Sevilla with the score tied at 49, Guevarra made his charities to ensure the Knights' sixth victory in seven starts. The Blazers dropped to their sixth consecutive defeat.

Paolo Orbeta, covered effectively by RJ Jazul, failed to get enough space to make a possible game-tying basket as time ran out. Orbeta, the Blazers' heart and soul, scored only two points.

That despite the fact that St. Benilde held sway for most of the game, leading by as many 11 points, 34-23, ironically through Orbeta's only field goal.

"He has a capability to contribute big to the team," Letran coach Louie Alas said of his ward who scored six straight points in the dying seconds to lift the Knights over the Red Lions, 70-69.

Guevarra, a former slam dunk champion who sports knee-high socks like the legendary Knight Samboy Lim, finished with 14 points, including two three-pointers. He also had three rebounds, two steals and two blocks.

In the second match, San Beda licked its wounds long enough before venting its ire on Mapua, 89-75, to catch up with Letran at 6-1.

The Red Lions, however, first got a tongue-lashing from coach Frankie Lim after they trailed, 45-39, at halftime.

"Normally after a big loss, you want to come out strong and overachieve, but they still came out soft so I blew my top," said Lim. "But at least, I saw their effort in the second half."

The scores:

First Game

LETRAN 51—Guevarra 14, Jazul 10, Daa 7, Quinday 6, Faundo 6, Melegrito 4, Ranises 2, Dangcal 2, Reposar 0, Del Rosario 0, Cabonce 0, Gutliban 0.

ST. BENILDE 49—Porras 12, Layug 9, Cabatu 6, David 5, Johnston 4, Robles 4, Urra 3, Orbeta 2, Sevilla 2, Cadiz 2, Manlapaz 0.

Quarters: 5-13, 17-22, 32-39, 51-49

Second Game

SAN BEDA 89—Escobal 23, Ekwe 19, Hermida 12, Menor 10, Aljamal 10, Lanete 8, Tagupa 2, Gamalinda 2, Maggay 2, Tirona 1.

MAPUA 75—Del Rosario 19, Dela Pena 16, Co 14, Banal 10, Pascual 9, Acosta 7, Guillermo 0.

Quarters: 16-18, 39-45, 63-65, 89-75

Iligan five thwarts Iloilo, leads semis series

ILIGAN CITY—THE FIREFLY-ILIGAN Crusaders used a balanced scoring attack to stop Toyota-Iloilo's amazing playoff run, 83-77, Thursday night in Game 1 of their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2007 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the packed MSU-IIT gum here.

Rookies RB Mangahas and Ian Saladaga played like veterans as they led Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Crusaders with a combined output of 35 points.

Mangahas, former FEU Tamaraw, shot 6-for-10 from the field to post his personal high of 18 points while ex-USJ-Recoletos player Saladaga missed only three of his 11 attempts to wind up with 17.

Harold Sta. Cruz also played big for Iligan, grabbing 19 rebounds and finishing with 10 points, four assists and three blocks.

"It was a total team effort," said Iligan coach Eric Samson. "I know they (the Warriors) will come back in the next game."

The Warriors of businessman Robert Uy and strong supporter Mayor Jerry Trenas, who knocked out Montana-Davao and Tagaytay-Spring to reach the semifinals, failed to get enough support from their veterans with Eugene Tan going scoreless and Floyd Dedicatoria scoring only six points.

Game 2 moves to Iloilo on Aug. 3 with the Warriors seeking to stay alive.

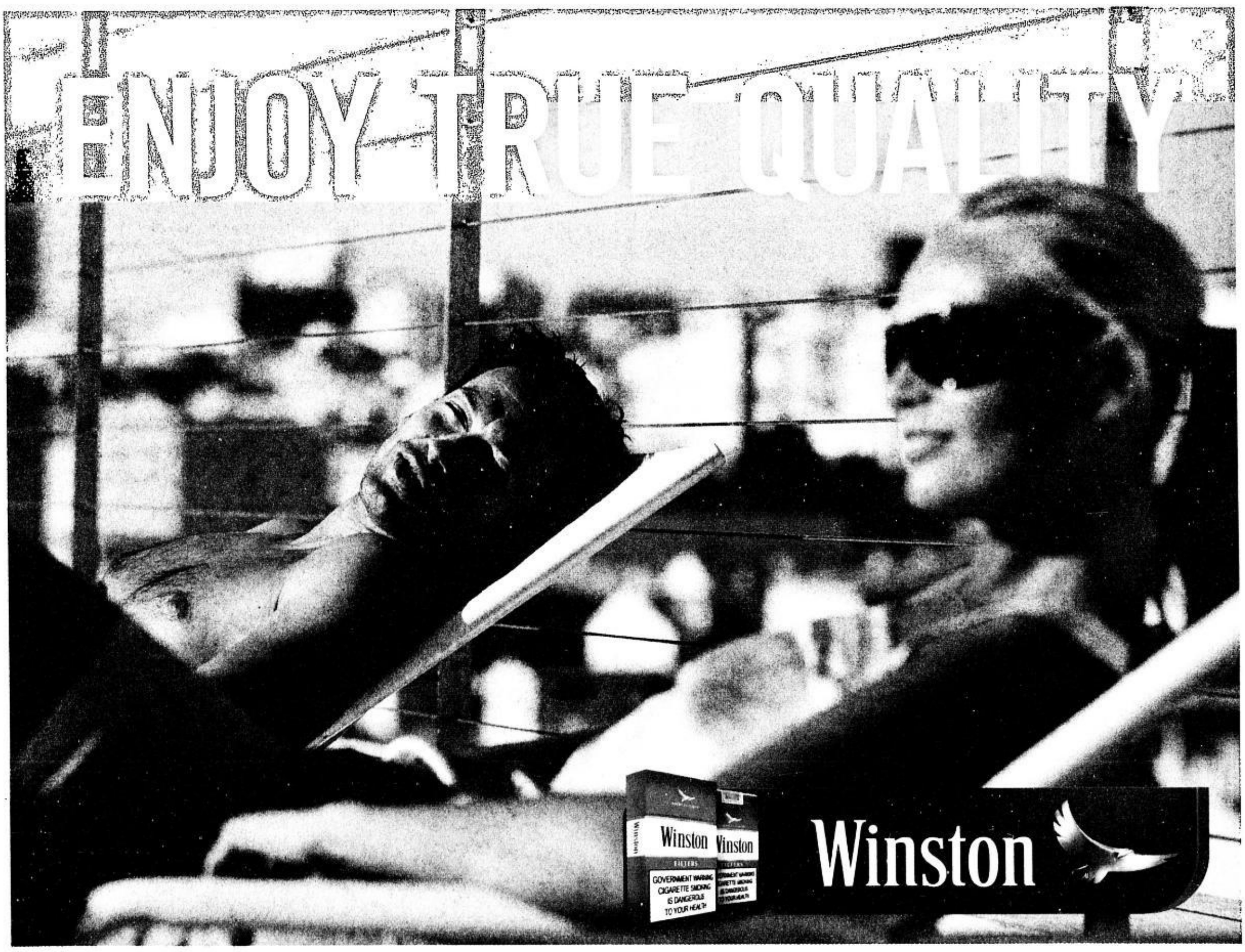
Defending champion Ozamiz leads Pagadian, 1-0, in the other semifinal series.

The scores:

ILIGAN 83—Mangahas 18, Saladaga 17, Marata 12, Sta. Cruz 10, Go 6, Hardin 6, Kalaw 4, Matias 4, Cruz 4, Guiyab 2, Gatchalian 0, Cabili 0.

ILOILO 77—Senieres 23, Balgos 17, Guerrero 8, Dedicatoria 6, Tizon 6, Laborte 5, Leonida 4, Pelopero 3, Guanco 3, Cortel 2, Sencil 0, Tan 0.

Quarters: 22-18, 46-38, 50-69, 83-77



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

SPORTS

Tour's fate hinges on Contador

PAU, FRANCE—Spain's Alberto Contador will wear the Tour de France's yellow jersey at the start of Friday's stage, after the previous race leader was sacked by his own team in a row over doping tests.

CONTADOR AP

No rider wore the emblematic yellow jersey designating the overall leader Thursday, after the Rabobank team sensationally withdrew Denmark's Michael Rasmussen on suspicion of doping.

On Thursday the Dutch outfit's manager, Theo de Rooy, said Rasmussen, was not only out of the Tour but had also been sacked from the team.

The shock announcement came after the Danish rider, who had worn the yellow jersey for over a week, appeared to have sealed overall victory when winning Wednesday's stage.

"He lied to me, that is the chief reason (for sacking him)," de Rooy said.

The presence in the race of 33-year-old Rasmussen had already been questioned after it was revealed he had missed four out-of-competition dope tests in the past 18 months.

Race organizers welcomed the action taken.

"Rasmussen's exit is the best thing that can happen to the Tour," race director Christian Prudhomme told reporters before the start of Thursday's stage.

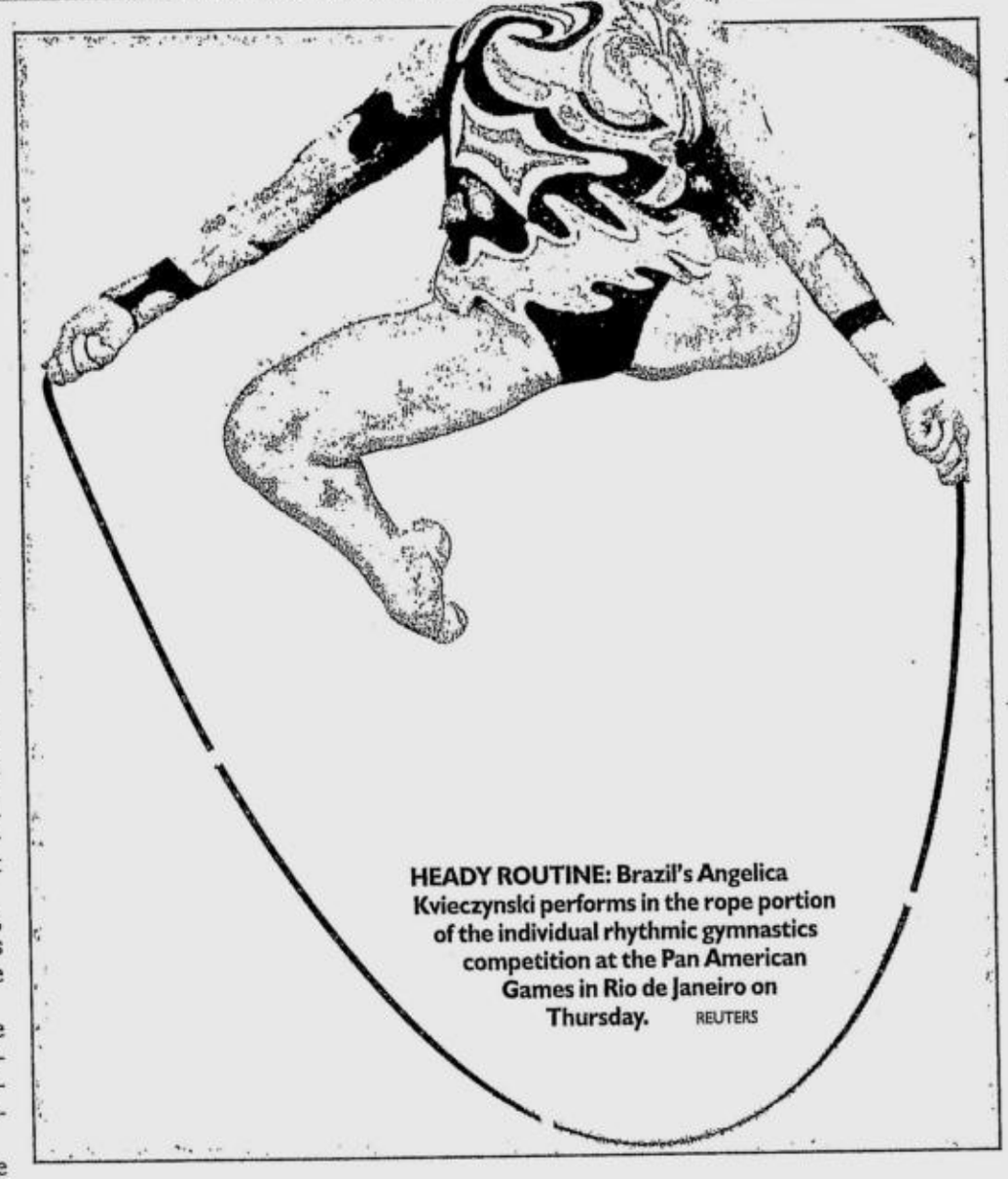
The Danish rider, who insisted at a press conference earlier this week that he was clean, was left reeling.

While Rasmussen's departure now may have saved greater embarrassment later, it still added another layer of scandal to a Tour already straining to stay on course.

"The death of the Tour" was the unequivocal judgement of the French daily Liberation. Germany's top selling daily Bild said the time had come "to stop this farce."

But for three-time Tour champion Greg LeMond, the latest scandal came as no surprise.

LeMond, winner in 1986, 1989 and 1990, said it was unfair to brand Rasmussen a cheat without looking at other riders. "If Rasmussen got caught, and if you want to be equal, you have to implicate other riders too," LeMond said. *AFP*



HEADY ROUTINE: Brazil's Angelica Kvieczynski performs in the rope portion of the individual rhythmic gymnastics competition at the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday. REUTERS

All-Brazilian bench battle in Asian Cup

JAKARTA—BRAZILIAN COACHES JORVAN Vieira and Helios dos Anjos have been through the grinder these past three weeks getting their Iraqi and Saudi Arabian teams through to Sunday's Asian Cup final here.

While other higher-profile teams have crashed and burned on the Cup trail winding through Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, Iraq and the Saudis have come out on top to shoot for Asian football's premier title.

Vieira, an intense man often seen gesticulating wildly on the sidelines, is one game away from realizing one of football's inspirational stories with his Iraq team poised for a breakthrough triumph amid all the turmoil back home.

Compatriot dos Anjos, who has never coached outside of South America before, has one of the most unenvied jobs in world football—the coach of Saudi Arabia and with it their notoriously trigger-happy paymasters.

When dos Anjos was appointed last March his compatriot Marcos Paqueta was the 16th manager axed from the Saudi hot seat in the past 13 years. Yet he could become a fabulously well-rewarded hero in the kingdom if the Saudis can carry off Sunday's all-Arab final, at the expense of their Gulf rivals Iraq.

"It has been a victory for Arabian football, especially for Iraq because everyone knows what is happening there," Angos said. *AFP*

Wada calls for high-level anti-doping summit

PARIS—WORLD ANTI-DOPING BODY, Wada, on Thursday upped the stakes in the Tour de France's battle to save its damaged credibility by calling for a high-level summit to discuss the doping crisis.

Wada president Dick Pound admitted he was concerned by developments in the Tour this week which have seen yellow jersey Michael Rasmussen axed from the race and long-time favorite Alexandre Vinokourov failed a test for blood doping.

Now, Wada have offered to convene a high-level summit of all parties involved in cycling to have an in-depth discussion on how to deal with the problem of doping in the sport.

"Wada is deeply concerned by the multiplication of doping cases and affairs in cycling," said Pound. "Even recent initiatives taken by cycling authorities, such as a pledge against doping and increased pressure, are obviously insufficient to deter some riders from cheating. We need to hold such a meeting urgently to see what more can be done to restore the credibility and integrity of cycling."

WADA said an invitation to the summit will be extended to all parties involved in cycling—the International Cycling Union (UCI), organizers, professional cyclists, team members and other individuals or organizations involved in the sport such as sponsors and broadcasters. *AFP*

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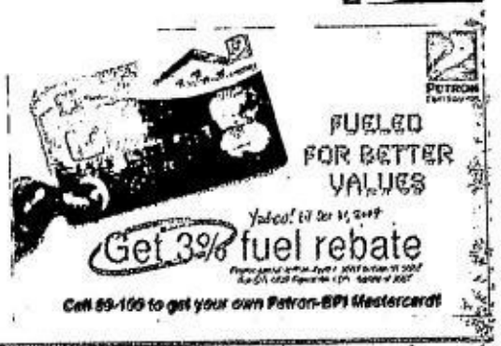


Stocks plunge 3.9% on Wall St. selloff

Biggest single-day drop since August 1997

LOCAL STOCK PRICES PLUNGED YESTERDAY, HURT BY the aftershock of the overnight fall on Wall Street. A technical problem that delayed the opening of the bourse by more than an hour added to the anxiety.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index plummeted 140.92 points, or 3.9 percent, to 3,518.76—its steepest single day fall since Aug. 28, 1997.

"Investor sentiment, already hurt by Wall Street, was aggravated by the (technical) glitch," said Rommel Macapagal, chair of Westlink Global Equities.

Trading was extended by an hour to make for the late opening.

"The root of the problem is the subprime mortgage worries in the US, so this might last until September. August is a weak month for Manila markets," said Jose Vistan at AB Capital Securities

Investors will closely watch US equities later Friday to find trading leads for Monday.

Losers, led by property developer Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., outnumbered gainers 141 to 8, with 24 issues unchanged. Vista Land, which listed shares sold in a follow-on offer on Thursday, fell 5.8 percent to P6.50.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., whose American depositary receipts fell 2 percent overnight in New York, retreated 1.3 percent to P2,625.

April Tan, research head at Citisec-Online.com, said that Philippine stocks' fundamentals remained strong but the shares were technically overbought following the market's recent rise to a new record high.

Other Asian markets also tumbled yesterday in the wake of one of Wall Street's biggest losses of the year.

Japan's main stock index, the Nikkei 225, fell as much as 2.55 percent, before ending the morning session at 17,291.23, down 410.86 points, or 2.32 percent. A stronger yen and uncertainty over weekend elections also took a toll on Japanese stocks.

Markets in Hong Kong, China, Australia, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand also fell.

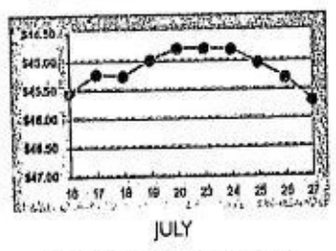
Prices tumbled after Wall Street suffered one of its worst losses this year Thursday as investors succumbed to months of worry about the US mortgage and corporate lending markets.

The Dow Jones industrial average

STOCKS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱45.72 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 27, 2007

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PSE allows firm to sell Vista Land stake /B2

25% of Napocor power assets now sold /B3

BSP expects inflation to rise in 2nd half

TETANGCO

By Daxim L. Lucas

PRICES OF LOCAL GOODS AND SERVICES are set to rise at a faster clip for the rest of the year, spilling over into next year, due to the confluence of global and domestic factors, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) predicted yesterday.

In a press briefing, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo pointed to rising oil prices and potential wage increases as the biggest threat to the country's inflation picture.

Rising inflation could mean that the central bank would gradually tighten monetary policy over the medium term to rein in price increases in coming months.

"We see a slightly higher inflation path in 2008 than in 2007," he said.

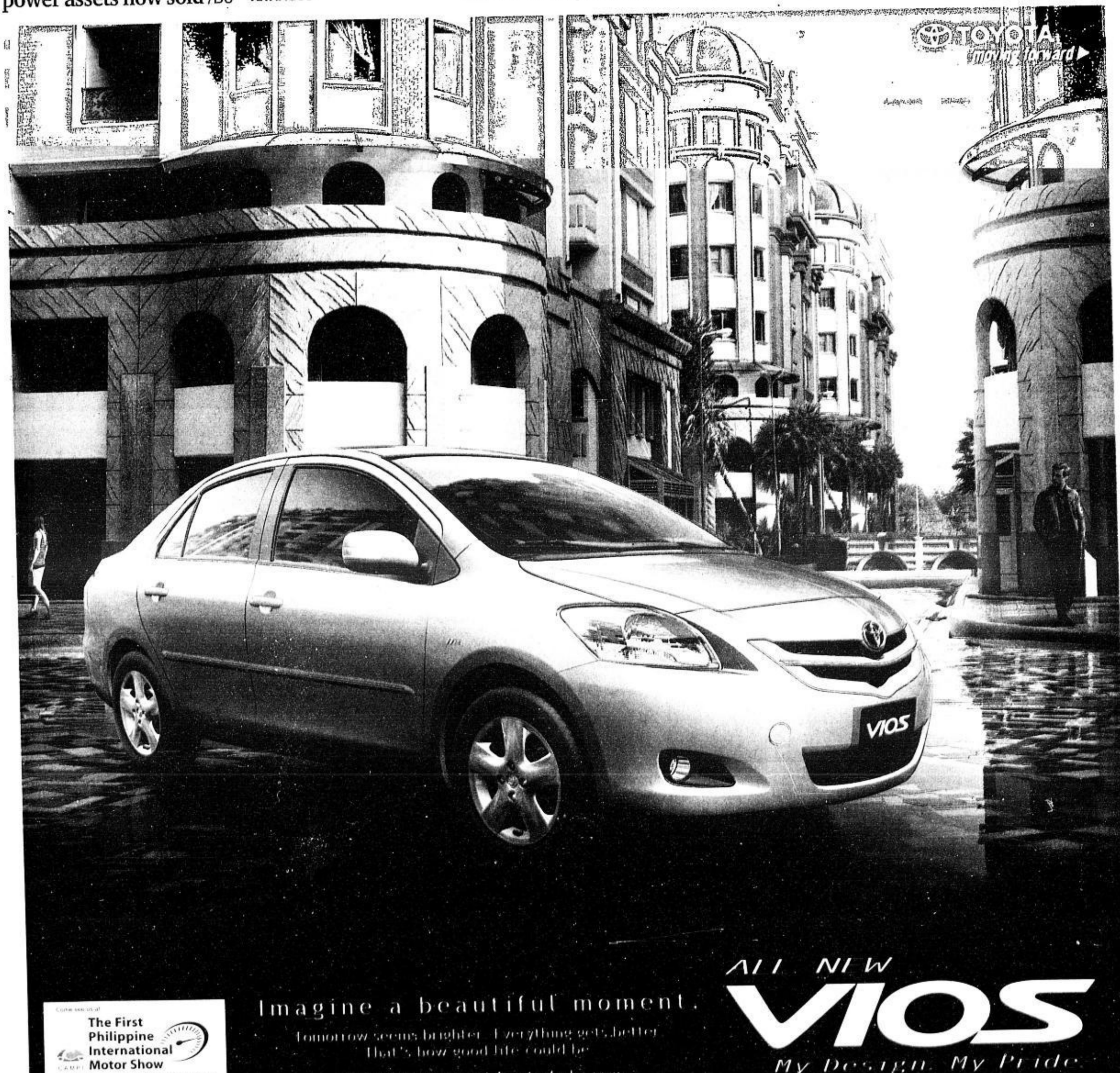
The central bank expects the 2008 inflation rate to come in at 4 percent, plus or minus a percentage point.

A central bank poll of private analysts and economists showed an average inflation forecast of between 3.1 percent and 4 percent for next year.

This is significantly higher than the 2.6 percent to 3.1 percent that the central bank expects to see for 2007.

"We see a gradual rise [in the infla-

BSP EXPECTS/ B2



Megaworld posts 67% jump in 1st-half profit to P1.45B

Property sales double to P4B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

OFFICE LANDLORD MEGAWORLD Corp. yesterday reported a 67-percent jump in its net income for the first six months to a record P1.45 billion from P867.55 million in the same period last year.

Megaworld said the company rode on the sustained growth of its core residential and business process outsourcing office businesses.

Total revenues grew 81 percent to P6.01 billion in the first six months from P3.33 billion a year ago.

Real estate sales doubled to P4.05 billion while rental income from its BPO office and retail developments reached P455.7 million in the first six months of the year—or 41 percent higher than the P322.9 million it posted in the first semester last year.

As the country's biggest BPO office developer and landlord, Megaworld is embarking on an aggressive build-out program to complete at least 500,000 square meters of BPO office space over the next five years.

Megaworld is developing or expanding three information technology (IT) parks spread out in key strategic areas in Metro Manila—Eastwood City in Quezon City, McKinley Hill in Taguig City and Newport City in Pasay City.

Megaworld is a pioneer in building urban IT parks and has committed substantial resources to continue investing in the fast-growing industry, which capitalizes on the strength of the country's rich labor pool.

As of June 30, Megaworld has a cash position of P21.4 billion as against a debt level of P7.3 billion.

Megaworld is considered as one of the strongest property companies in the country in terms of equity base and balance sheet. This allows the company to continue investing in its core businesses to ensure profitability on a sustained basis.

After building a leading position in the residential and BPO office sectors, Megaworld has started exploring opportunities in the tourism and leisure markets.

BDO cleans books, sees ₱7-B profit in '07

By Daxim L. Lucas

BANCO DE ORO UNIBANK INC. (BDO)—the new corporate name of the Henry Sy-owned financial giant—expects to post double-digit profit growth this year despite the added costs associated with its acquisition of Equitable-PCI Bank.

In a press briefing, BDO president and CEO Nestor Tan said said he expected the bank to post a P7.05-billion net income for 2007, marking a 10-percent increase over the P6.39 billion pro forma income reported by both banks before their formal merger.

Also yesterday, BDO announced the appointment of Teresita Sy as chair of the bank.

Tan said that higher profits would be achieved through the bank's continued loan expansion and the improved mix of its loans business, higher consumer lending, as well as lower cost of funds with the increase in low-cost deposits.

Tan pointed out that the bank would likely continue to outpace the rest of the banking industry in terms of earnings growth, continuing a trend that started in 2001.

Over the past five years, BDO's profitability combined with that of Equitable-PCI has grown by a compounded annual growth rate of 58.8 percent versus the industry average of only 32.6 percent.

The Sy-owned bank received approval for its merger with Equitable-PCI last May and is now in the process of integrating its operations with the larger bank.

The merged entity will be the second-biggest bank in the country with assets of P608 billion and the largest in terms of capitalization with P73 billion in equity.

Despite this, Tan acknowledged that the merged entity would have to further boost its capitalization after absorbing the burden of cleaning up the books of Equitable-PCI.

He said that BDO would raise anywhere from $150 million to $200 million worth of capital from international investors later this year or in early 2008 to boost the bank's equity position.

The new funds may come in the form of tier 2 capital, Tan said.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio (CAR)—the proportion of equity to risky assets—stands between 12.5 percent and 13 percent, which is lower than the industry average of 18 percent. Tan said BDO's CAR level declined because of the risks it had to absorb due to the merger.

On top of this, Tan said that BDO would spend P1 billion this year and another P1 billion next year for integration costs with Equitable-PCI. This is aside from the bad loan and bad asset provisions that BDO had to set aside to buttress its books from the risks in Equitable-PCI's portfolio. BDO also wrote off P15.7 billion worth of goodwill in Equitable-PCI's books, he said.

PSE allows firm to sell Vista Land stake

LISTED REAL-ESTATE FIRM POLAR PROPerty Holdings Corp. of Sen. Manuel Villar has obtained Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) approval to sell 722.61 million shares in recently listed Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.

The shares represent 8.5 percent of Vista Land.

In a circular dated July 13, The PSE said it approved the release from escrow of only the shares of Polar Property due to the fact that Polar will own less than 10 percent of the total outstanding capital stock of VLL after the approval of the listing of the company's primary shares last June 27.

Under PSE rules, a 180-day lock-up is imposed on shareholders owning at least 10 percent of the company's outstanding shares upon the company's initial public offer or listing.

Sources said Polar owned 8.5 percent of Vista Land, down from 11 percent after Vista Land's public offering and increase in capital in the last two weeks.

Two other Villar companies—Adelfa Properties and Fine Properties—were covered by the lock-up period for owning more than 10 percent each in Vista Land.

Even if Polar sells its 8.5-percent stake, Villar would still own 54.3 percent in Vista Land through Adelfa and Fine, sources close to the Villar Group added.

PSE sources said the PSE did not bend the rules to favor Villar when it allowed Polar to exit Vista Land because it was not in violation of any PSE rule. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Stocks plunge 3.9% on Wall St. selloff

From page B1

plunged 311.50 points or 2.26 percent, to 13,473.57, its biggest point drop since Feb. 27, when a fall in the Shanghai stock market rattled world exchanges.

That rattled Asian investors, who closely watch Wall Street and the US economy because the United States is one of their biggest export markets.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was down 438.71 points, or 1.89 percent, to 22,771.41 in late morning trade, while Singapore's Straits Times index slid 2.6 percent to 3,486.75.

Australian stocks fell more than 2 percent, with all 20 top stocks dropping. Weaker commodity prices on the London Metal Exchange also hit major miners like BHP Billiton, which was down 3 percent.

"There is selling right across the board, and it's really a question of degree as to which one has gone down by more and which one has gone down by less," said Andrew Sekely, director of equities at Intersuisse.

Chinese stocks, which hit a record Thursday, also fell yesterday. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index was down 1.2 percent at 4,294.15 in late morning trading.

In Tokyo, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki, however, quickly brushed off concerns about the influence by the US stock declines on the economy in the region.

"The Japanese economy is expanding stably and I have not heard that there have been any major fluctuations in other key countries," Shiozaki said.

Analysts said Japanese stocks also suffered amid the yen's recent appreciation against the dollar and political uncertainty in Japan over the fate of Sunday's parliamentary elections. *AP*

BSP expects

From page B1

tion rate] until the second quarter of 2008 on the assumption of higher oil prices and the increase in wages," the central bank's deputy chief said.

To date, inflation has remained relatively benign with the average rate for the first half of the year standing at 2.63 percent.

During the briefing, Guinigundo pointed to several factors that continue to threaten the country's inflation picture.

On top of oil prices and likely wage adjustments, he said that the local economy could also be hit by the effects of weather disturbances that could upset the harvest season from September to December.

Any disruption in food supply, either due to drought or typhoons, would push up the prices of food, which is the single biggest determinant of the broad inflation rate.

Guinigundo also said that the risk of continued growth of monetary aggregates continued to pose a risk for the local economy. He, however, downplayed this aspect, saying that liquidity growth has already begun to respond to monetary tightening measures implemented by the central bank over the summer.

CURRENCIES

July 27, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.727537	1.000000	45.1840
Japan	Yen	0.006126	0.008420	0.3804
United Kingdom	Pound	1.491160	2.049600	92.6091
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.092994	0.127820	5.7754
Switzerland	Franc	0.604669	0.831117	37.5532
Canada	Dollar	0.690525	0.949127	42.8854
Singapore	Dollar	0.480127	0.659935	29.8185
Australia	Dollar	0.637631	0.876424	39.6003
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.929961	2.652731	119.8610
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.194010	0.266667	12.0491
Brunei	Dollar	0.478549	0.657765	29.7205
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000109	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.024332	0.033445	1.5112
UAE	Dirham	0.198142	0.272346	12.3057
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.374500	62.1054
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.001089	0.0492
China	Yuan**	0.096165	0.132179	5.9724
Argentina	Peso	0.231884	0.318725	14.4013
Brazil	Real	0.383924	0.527704	23.8438
Denmark	Kroner	0.134418	0.184758	8.3481
India	Rupee	0.018035	0.024789	1.1201
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.211617	0.290867	13.1425
Mexico	New Peso	0.066321	0.091158	4.1189
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575264	0.790701	35.7270
Norway	Kroner	0.124629	0.171303	7.7402
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012052	0.016565	0.7485
South Africa	Rand	0.103771	0.142633	6.4447
Sweden	Kroner	0.108002	0.148449	6.7075
Syria	Pound	0.014105	0.019387	0.8760
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022156	0.030454	1.3760
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000339	0.000466	0.0211

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 26, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 26, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 27, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	SEC NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11	11	10	10	141,100
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	65	66.5	64	66	1,360,300
73.5	51	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68.5	68.5	66	66.5	2,003,300
935	630	China Banking Corp.	860	860	835	845	16,180
40	19	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Banking Corp.	31	31	31	31	2,000
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
0.63	0.37	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.53	0.53	0.51	0.52	2,510,000
75.5	35.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	65	66.5	63.5	63.5	3,177,100
68	39	Philippine Savings Bank	63	64	63	64	4,000
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	52	52	52	52	3,000
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	32	33	31.5	32	2,307,400
90	46.5	Security Bank Corp.	82.5	83	81.5	82	54,600
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	59	62	59	62	37,800
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	668,000
16.25	1.78	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13	13	12.5	12.5	1,364,400
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	272,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	40	41.5	40	41.5	3,000
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	6,044,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	30,000
1,005.00	212	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	790	810	775	810	10,080
1.94	1.28	iVantage Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	150,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	5.3	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	29,543,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.4	0.4	380,000
70	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	67	64	64	2,295,700
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86	82	83	958,400
15	7.9	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14	14.5	13.75	14.25	10,645,300
116	15	Manila Electric Co. "A"	101	101	95	95	451,790
118	24	Manila Electric Co. "B"	100	100	94.5	95	3,756,620
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	121,602,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	6.2	6.2	5.9	6	10,431,000
14.75	10.75	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	11.5	11.75	10.75	11.25	1,760,700
1.9	0.92	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.36	1.4	1,896,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	25,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	375,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.5	24.5	24	24	20,000
61	31.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	51	51	46.5	46.5	1,496,300
1.96	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.82	1.86	1.82	1.84	259,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	366,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	72.5	73	71.5	73	232,800
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	75	75	74	74.5	259,600
0.66	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	440,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	16.5	16.75	468,900
0.55	0.2	Vitarich Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.38	1,370,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.55	EEI Corp.	4.95	4.95	4.6	4.9	3,424,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	18	20	18	20	200
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.5	711,000
2	0.27	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	3,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.3	1,172,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.0675	Picop Resources Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.5	0.51	50,780,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.8	A. Soriano Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.55	549,000
0.17	0.024	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.125	49,460,000
1.28	0.2	APC Group Inc.	0.98	1.02	0.96	1	19,350,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.46	2.5	2.46	2.48	408,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.42	2.6	2.42	2.6	521,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	73,800,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	40,100,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.4	4,618,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	139,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	6,058,000
1.38	0.48	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.85	0.92	0.85	0.85	1,280,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.4	2.42	2.36	2.36	3,268,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4.2	4.2	4	4	75,000
590	335.42	Ayala Corp.	540	540	520	525	473,830
14.5	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	12,300
6.9	0.8	Batabac Resources & Holdings Co. Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.2	1,260,000
5.8	1.06	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5	5.2	4.9	4.9	22,245,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.2	9.3	1,825,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	89,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	1,520,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.5	702,100
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.3	3	3	228,000
2.65	1.42	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. "B"	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	110,000
0.8	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	600,000
0.95	0.13	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	210,000
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	8.5	9.2	8.4	8.4	16,019,000
8.2	1.94	PAL Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.2	7.3	939,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.55	5,450,000
2.04	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	68,000
452.5	202.36	SM Investments Corp.	417.5	417.5	410	412.5	488,890
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	356,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	16,320,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.89	690,000
1.6	0.85	South China Resources Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
4.4	1	TKC Steel Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.52	3,620,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.75	0.75	670,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.5	1.5	10,824,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	620,000
19.25	10.83	Ayala Land Inc.	16.5	16.75	16.25	16.5	31,654,500
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.46	5,142,000
4.7	2.1	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.25	205,000
2	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp."A"	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	30,000
2.1	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp."B"	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	130,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.54	0.55	32,210,000
3.25	0.78	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	203,000
0.99	0.45	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.82	0.8	0.81	30,620,000
0.47	0.038	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	86,870,000
1.48	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.26	1.36	1.24	1.26	48,111,000
2.44	1.06	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.9	1.96	52,612,000
0.49	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,300,000
0.5	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.36	0.39	0.34	0.39	260,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	193,000
2.9	0.8	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	70,000
1.12	0.22	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	230,000
4.4	1.34	Megaworld Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.85	53,024,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.1	410,000
0.7	0.11	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.45	0.52	0.45	0.45	700,000
0.87	0.27	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.64	2,880,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.4	40,000
23	11	Robinson Land Corp.	18.75	18.75	17.25	17.25	5,496,800
5.9	1.28	SM Development Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.4	2,880,000
13.5	6.08	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12	8,787,800
1.34	0.55	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.92	0.93	0.88	0.88	5,970,000
0.49	0.0675	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	19,510,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.5	145,003,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36	36	35.5	36	34,500
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.08	274,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.42	4,608,000
1,445.00	970	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,300.00	1,305.00	44,230
2,820.00	1,890.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,620.00	2,625.00	107,240
7.9	3.55	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	3,075,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	7,380,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	10.5	10.75	10	10.25	4,808,400
0.065	0.028	ISM Communications Corp.	0.044	0.044	0.042	0.043	77,300,000
29.5	6	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	20	20	20	20	2,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.06	2.06	515,000
0.32	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.205	0.21	32,510,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	30,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.055	683,100,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.4	2.44	2.36	2.4	746,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	5,000
6.8	2.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	282,000
34.5	14	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	31.5	32	31	31.5	942,200
2.16	0.87	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	94,000
2.04	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.3	1.3	151,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.28	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	1,696,000
0.98	0.2	Premiere Entertainment Prod. Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.72	1,070,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.9	0.92	0.85	0.85	2,240,000
		EDUCATION					
966.67	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	850	850	850	850	500
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	53,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.3	5	5.2	3,101,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	147,900
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	20	20.25	19.5	20	289,700
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	122,900,000
7.6	3.65	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.3	186,000
7.7	3.65	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.1	36,000
21.25	7.6	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16	16.25	15.75	15.75	7,081,700
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.25	11.25	11	11	79,100
5	1.76	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4	4	4	4	50,000
3.1	0.1203	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.7	47,189,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	8,800,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	11,660,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	353,100,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.031	136,300,000
30	0.88	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.25	22	20	21	602,800
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.016	1,426,600,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	9,969,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35	624,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	1,716,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.36	3,869,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	7,220,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.022	0.023	650,800,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.026	0.024	0.025	264,000,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	224,800
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	238,600,000

AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	946.68 DOWN	25.57	22,969,580	674,053,165.00
Industrial	4,799.22 DOWN	239.65	245,123,310	1,999,689,945.00
Holding Firms	2,068.24 DOWN	115.88	412,435,120	883,891,315.00
Property	1,696.15 DOWN	93.83	545,986,100	2,172,840,195.00
Service	1,589.31 DOWN	31.65	824,611,670	535,787,710.00
Mining & Oil	6,580.59 DOWN	287.89	3,291,607,400	418,169,455.00
All Shares Index	2,283.23 DOWN	89.19	
PSEi	3,518.76 DOWN	140.92	
		GRAND TOTALS	5,342,733,180	6,684,431,785.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Resort developer opens Boracay condotel salvo with ₱1-B project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CEBU-BASED J. KING AND SONS CO. INC. on Thursday launched a P1-billion condotel complex to be built in central Boracay—the first of a series of projects meant to address the 5,000-room shortfall in first-class tourist accommodation on the island.

Company chair Richard King said the 382-unit Crown Regency Resort and Convention Center would be the firm's answer to the continuous influx of local and foreign tourists to Boracay, which is growing yearly.

Citing data from the Department of Tourism, King said Boracay hosted some 700,000 tourists in 2006, up from about 500,000 in 2005.

"Tourism arrivals in Boracay are becoming less and less seasonal, especially those who come from abroad," he said. "This could only mean good for a project such as a Crown Regency in Boracay."

Construction work on the 1.2-hectare property would start in November and could take two years to complete.

The project boasts of a convention center that could accommodate 1,200 people at any one time, and a swimming pool that would be the biggest on the island at 3,000 square meters.

J. King and Sons has also lined up three other Crown Regency projects, which would add at least 200 five-star rooms in other parts of the island.

Crown Regency Resort would rise along Boracay's Station 3 beachfront, Crown Regency Prince Resort at Station 1, and Crown Regency Bayview Resort at one end of Bolabog beach cove on the northern side of the island.

"(The resort) offers a revolutionary ... concept in that, we are not just selling timeshares but the units themselves," King said.

An owner is assured of 45 days free stay with an option to sell the unit if it is not used. People may also finds accommodations in any of over 2,000 affiliate hotels and resorts here and abroad through Interval International.

Cynthia L. Suelto, president and chief executive of the the group's marketing partner Megatrend Realty Network, said buyers would be assured of profit from the 320 days that their units would be rented out to guests.

Prices range up to P7.5 million, which is a 59 square-meter unit with a loft.

25% of Napocor power assets now sold

Winner of Masinloc bid seeks to expand 600-MW power plant by another 300 MW

By Abigail L. Ho

THURSDAY'S SALE OF THE 600-MEGAWATT (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant to Masinloc Power Partners Co. Ltd. has raised the privatization level of National Power Corp.'s Luzon and Visayas assets to 25 percent, from the previous level of 11 percent.

In a briefing yesterday, PSALM president Jose Ibazeta said the privatization level could go up by another 13 percentage points when the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plant in Batangas is sold in October.

Napocor's assets are measured by each facility's capacity to generate power.

By the end of the year, he said, the privatization level should breach the 50-percent mark, with the scheduled auction of the Tiwi-Makban geothermal facilities and the Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant later in the year.

PSALM has targeted the privatization of 70 percent of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas capacities by end-2008. It had so far sold 24.8 percent of the state firm's 4,335.7-megawatt capacity in the two grids.

The Masinloc plant last Thursday fetched a price of $930 million.

PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco said winning bidder Singapore-based AES Transpower Pte. Ltd.—an investment holding and service company for entities that generate, sell, supply, transmit, trade and accumulate electricity and electro-motive force—still had room to expand the plant by another 300 MW.

"The plant is really set up for expansion," Ibazeta added. "We have connecting wires to Transco. All the bidders were actually planning to expand the facility. That can be done most likely within the next 24 months."

Apart from Masinloc, PSALM has so far sold eight facilities, including the 3.5-MW Talomo plant in Davao, the 1.6-MW Agusan facility in Bukidnon, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon, the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol, the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway package in Nueva Ecija and the 360-MW Magat plant in Isabela.

eTelecare taps new credit line

QUEZON CITY-BASED ETELECARE GLOBAL Solutions Inc. yesterday announced it had secured a $25-million (about P1.13 billion in current rates) credit facility from Wells Fargo Bank NA to support its working capital needs in the next four years.

"We are pleased to enter into an agreement with a top-tier commercial lender of Well Fargo's caliber," said Michael Dodson, eTelecare chief financial officer. "The agreement recognizes our past financial growth and the strength of our capital structure. (It also) provides flexibility to facilitate future growth."

The facility replaces an earlier debt agreement with Wells Fargo Foothill Inc., which was terminated last July 20 because of the new deal.

The prior debt agreement consisted of two term loans and a revolving line of credit with borrowing capacity of up to $25 million.

Dodson said that, as of the date of termination, there were no outstanding amounts owed and that eTelecare incurred no termination penalties.

He said drawdowns from the new facility would be used to support the firm's working capital on an as-needed basis over a four-year term.

Under the new agreement, borrowings would bear interest at a rate equal to 30-, 60-, 90- or 180-day Libor (London interbank overnight rates) for US dollar deposits plus 1.25 percent.

eTelecare in the third quarter is set to open its sixth call center in the country, which could house up to 3,000 agents.

Announced last May, the expansion follows the firm's completion of a $74-million initial public offer at the Nasdaq in the United States.

The new call center, located at the Annex@Shaw facility in Mandaluyong City, occupies space totaling 13,000 square meters. It is eTelecare's 13th site worldwide.

In the US, the firm has three centers in Arizona, two in North Dakota, one in South Dakota and another in New Mexico.

eTelecare has a total of about 10,000 employees, with some 73 percent based in the Philippines. The new call center would bring the ratio to some 80 percent, with a total of nearly 13,000 workers. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Korea-Subic budget flight takes off

By Riza T. Olchondra

A NEW BUDGET AIRLINE, PAcific Pearl Airways, will start the only direct service between South Korea and Subic next month.

PPA is a private corporation that will operate and manage chartered flights in both domestic and foreign routes.

"The company has prepared daily flight schedules from South Korea to several destinations in the Philippines, namely Subic, Manila, Kalibo, Cebu City and Davao City," airline vice president for marketing Eligio Jimenez announced on the eve of the service launch at the Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA) on July 28. "Flights will commence in August 2007."

The airline will use a new Boeing 737-200 aircraft, which flew into Subic last week from San Bernardino International Airport in California. Along the way, it touched down in Salinas, Honolulu; Majaro, the Marshall Islands; and Guam.

The aircraft can carry 114 passengers at a time.

Jimenez said PPA's agreement with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) to lease a hangar within the SBIA gives the airline a competitive advantage in the aviation industry by eliminating stop-over hassles.

The airline said its passengers from Korea would gain savings and lessen travel time because they would not have to stop over in Manila.

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* Knowledge in basic computer applications.
* With excellent communication skills

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* With good communication skills.

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* Knowledge in basic computer systems application.
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* Technology Course graduate (preferably Mechanical Technology).
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* Trouble-shooting knowledge in printing machine.
* Knowledge in basic computer systems application.
* With good communication skills.

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* With excellent communication and negotiation skills.
* Proficient in Microsoft applications.

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Applicants must submit their resumé and 2 copies of 2x2 photos.
We will not entertain applicants with incomplete requirements.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

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Top American, European diabetes groups offer guidelines for Asians

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

CONSIDER THESE FIGures: By 2030 seven out of 10 countries with the most diabetic patients will be in Asia, with India and China topping the list with 79.4 million and 42.3 million, respectively. The Philippines, which is not even in the current top 10 list, will catapult to No. 9 with 7.8 million (from the current 3.36 million).

Indeed, these dire estimates from the journal Diabetes Care is more than enough reason for the experts from the American Diabetes Association to be alarmed and visit the Asia-Pacific region, for the first time, to offer their recommendations—a treatment algorithm—for the management of type 2 diabetes.

A treatment algorithm usually refers to decision tree approaches to healthcare treatment (i.e., if symptoms A, B and C are evident, then use treatment X).

IN BANGKOK, ADA president-elect Dr. John Buse (second from right) leads the team of experts to share internationally accepted treatment algorithm for Asians.

First time

"This is also the first time that the ADA as well as the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) have spelt out a treatment regimen that recommends initial therapy with lifestyle modifications and metformin (a drug used for treating type 2 diabetes in adults and children) and the early addition of insulin therapy in patients who do not meet target goals," announced Dr. Richard Kahn, ADA chief scientific and medical officer.

The ADA clinical practices-recommendations were released during the Standing Together Against Diabetes, a medical conference held in Bangkok, Thailand early this month.

During the event, the experts tried to promote the use of the algorithm by educating the doctors who attended the conference and providing them with educational materials.

This ADA initiative to optimize diabetes therapy is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from pharmaceutical giant sanofi aventis.

Still fail to achieve

"Although current new classes of medications and numerous combinations have been demonstrated to lower the concentration of glucose in the blood (glycemia), current management still fails to achieve and maintain the levels that can provide optimal health care status for people with diabetes," acknowledged Dr. John Buse, professor of medicine and Division of Endocrinology chief at the University of North Carolina.

Buse, who is also ADA president-elect, added that with the emergence of many different medications for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in recent years, ADA's recommendations will set a precedent in the treatment of the disease by providing an easy-to-use treatment algorithm.

"This will help doctors in the Asia-Pacific region to choose the most appropriate therapies for lowering the blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes," he said.

Globalization

The experts acknowledged the effects of the globalization of the Western lifestyle for making type 2 diabetes a major and progressive health care problem around the world.

"It is sometimes described as a 'lifestyle disease' because it is more common in people who do insufficient physical activity and are overweight or obese. It is strongly associated with high blood pressure, high cholesterol and an 'apple' body shape, where excess weight is carried around the waist," Kahn said.

He noted that the burden of the disease was greatest in countries like India and China where there is rapid population growth.

Here in the Philippines, diabetes is currently the ninth leading cause of death, currently affecting one out of 25 Filipinos.

The new science of weight loss

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

DIETING IS A HUGE INDUSTRY. Health books, gyms, diet sodas. We have been told that we can lose weight if we want. Eat less, exercise more. Fat is lack of willpower. (After all, no one forced us to eat the pizza.) Obesity may be psychological, due to oral urges. Or we can blame society. Huge portions, eat-all-you-can buffets, too many temptations.

But things are not as simple as they seem, says New York Times science writer Gina Kolata. In her book "Rethinking Thin: The New Science of Weight Loss and the Myths and Realities of Dieting," Kolata discusses the history of diets, from the London undertaker William Banting's avoidance of starch (now the Atkins diet) to US columnist Lulu Hunt Peters' method of counting calories (used by Weight Watchers today). Kolata lists diet schemes, recycled through the years: behavior modification, surgery, diet drinks, dangerous drugs like fen-phen. The list is endless.

Initially, dieters do lose weight, and stay thin for a few months. But inevitably, for the majority, their weight creeps back, and they end up fatter and even more frustrated.

Smashing the diet myths

Why do some people find it so hard to lose weight, whatever they do? Kolata has done extensive research, which makes "Rethinking Thin" a great eye-opener. I have scanned countless health books, but this one is worth reading. Kolata debunks most of what we think is true about diet and health.

Dr. Albert Stunkard of the Center for Weight and Eating Disorders at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), states that "there is no psychiatric pathology [for] obesity." Fat people and thin people alike are usually unable to resist temptation; both eat in response to stress. But thin people stay thin. After studying identical twins, Stunkard concludes that genetics plays a big role. This does not mean that people are completely helpless to control their weight. "But those who tend to be fat will have to constantly battle their genetic inheritance if they want to reach and maintain a lower weight."

Dr. Ethan Sims of the University of Vermont studies fat cells. Kolata summarizes his results, "Fat people can't stay thin after they diet and thin people can't stay fat when they force themselves to gain weight. The body's metabolism speeds up or slows down to keep weight within a narrow range. Gain weight and the metabolism can as much as double; lose weight and the metabolism can slow down to half its original speed."

Obesity gene

Dr. Jeff Friedman of Rockefeller University discovers the obesity gene (found in chromosome 6), which he calls leptin. People who have adequate leptin tend to be thin, while those who lack the molecule, or who have defective ones, tend to be fat.

Being overweight leads to premature death, right? Most surprising are the studies by statistician Katherine Flegal of the National Center for Health Statistics and Dr. David Williamson at the Centers for Disease Control. After looking at major health papers, they find that being slightly overweight may not be so bad after all. "Rather than being at an increased risk of death, overweight people were, if anything, better off. Their death rate was slightly lower than the death rate for so-called normal-weight people." Very obese people have increased death risks, true, but so do very thin people.

How can this be? Perhaps "most people die when they are old, over 70, and having a bit of extra fat appears to be protective, stimulating the body to make more muscle and more bone." However, the reasons are still uncertain.

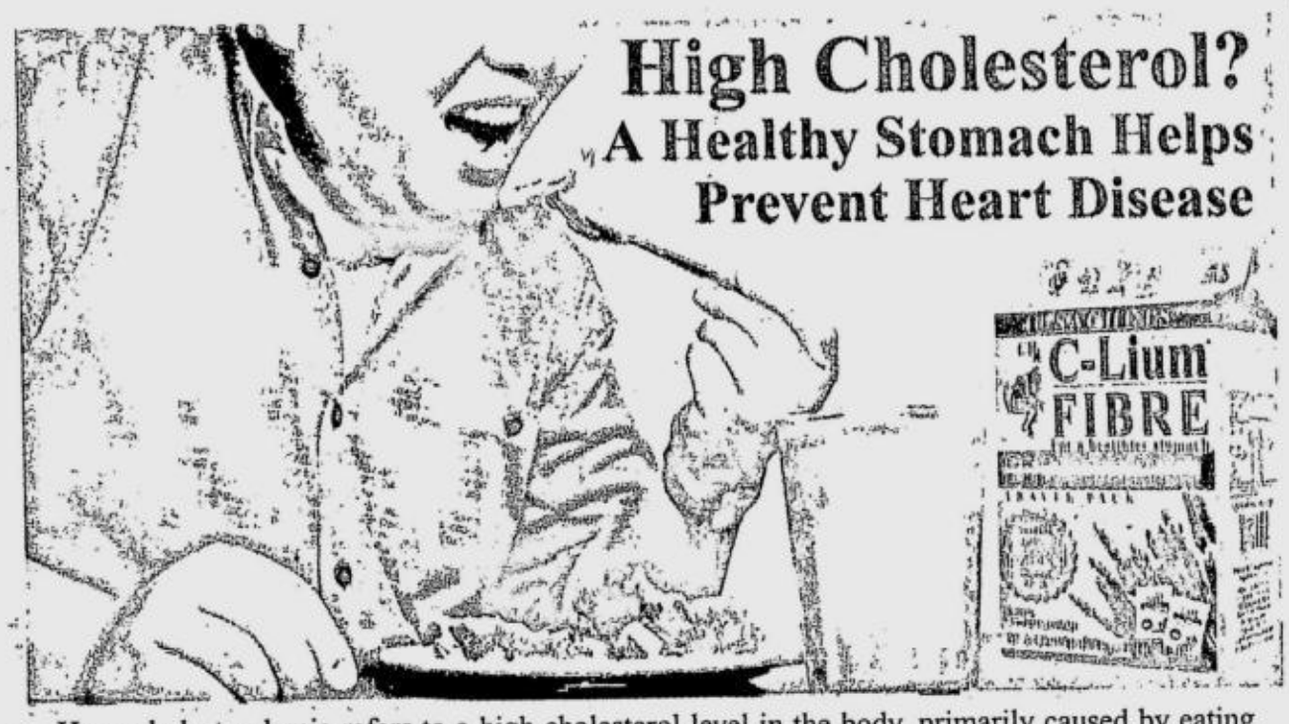
Does this mean that we should not try to lose weight? Extreme obesity has real health risks, but Kolata concludes, "it does not help to tell people that they are fat, to eat less and exercise more. [We should] rethink the risks of a few extra pounds. Perhaps society can then let up on beleaguered fat people."

"Rethinking Thin" is filled with science, not hype. It should be required reading for doctors, nutritionists, parents and all of us who have ever tried to lose weight.

"Rethinking Thin" is available at selected National Book Store branches.

* * *

Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.



Hypercholesterolemia refers to a high cholesterol level in the body, primarily caused by eating foods rich in saturated fats. This condition causes deposits of fats in the blood stream, and increases the risk of heart disease. When fat deposits become sufficiently large, they block the blood vessels and decrease blood flow, which may ultimately lead to a stroke or heart attack.

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Outdated

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

TWO YEARS AGO, DUKE UNIVERSITY graduate student Elizabeth Derryberry hiked through the snows near a national park in Northern California to locate 10 male white-crested sparrows. In each male's three-square-kilometer territory, she set up a speaker, moved several feet away, and began playing two versions of the same sparrow mating call.

When the resident male appeared to check out the boxy intruder, Derryberry measured how close he got to the speaker when each recording was played. The closer he moved, the more likely the male considered the recording a threat.

Recognizing sexual signals

Derryberry's research focuses on how sexual signals such as these mating calls have changed over time, and how they are being received. She studies the regional differences between the sparrow populations up and down the US West Coast. Put it this way: if the female doesn't recognize the male's interest in his call, their romance, much less the possibility of a happily ever after, is unlikely.

And if the female already has a male partner, he can judge the possible threat by the sound of the other's call. In Derryberry's recent paper in the journal Evolution, she compared the responses of contemporary male and female sparrows to mating calls recorded 24 years apart to see if changes in the sounds made affect the birds' success at recognizing the sexual signals.

To answer the questions of how changes in a mating call can affect the white-crested sparrows' chances of finding love and settling down to raise a brood, Derryberry paired recordings of males performing the mating calls in 1979 with those done in 2003. Given that the average lifespan of the sparrow is about two years, the calls were literally made generations apart. Samples of recordings from each period are available online at Duke University's website for the curious.

Differences in sound

The 1979 version starts with a high-pitched whistle before quickly dropping down to a midrange note followed by a quiet trill. The 2003 version starts with a lower note before climbing up to the same midrange pitch and then emphasizes specific notes on the trill. To the human ear the differences are minimal. To the birds, however, this may be the difference between an acoustic rendition and a session with electric guitars and full drum kit in play.

Though she studied the males' responses to the mating calls in the wild, Derryberry studied the females in the lab. Using females from the same Northern California area (they were returned after the experiments were done), Derryberry gave them time to get them used to having the speaker in their vicinity before she played the same recordings the males had heard.

Responses

When the 1979 versions were played, the females expressed some interest but were otherwise unmoved. When they heard the 2003 "remixes" however, they were twice as responsive as they were compared to the other version. If they'd been human, they might have flirted with the invisible male. The males, Derryberry found, had a similar response: they were curious about the 1979 recordings, but they practically invaded their rival's personal space when they heard the 2003 songs.

The responses don't bode well for a male white-crested sparrow who isn't up-to-date on the latest mating calls, not that Derryberry thinks there are any of those around. Still, the birds' reactions to the 2003 recordings make one thing clear: a male who doesn't sound as contemporary as the others isn't likely to get the female of his dreams.

It may not be a question of appreciating how music trends change with each succeeding generation—consider, after all, how many people have heard their elders complain that what the younger generation calls music, they call noise—but rather one of recognition. The lesson to be learned from all this is simple: familiarity breeds.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Nutrition Month Celebration 2007

'Healthy lifestyle ng kabataan, landas sa kinabukasan!'

Nutrition Month (NM) is held every July to focus the general public's attention on nutrition along a chosen theme. This year, the country is celebrating the 33rd Nutrition Month. The National Nutrition Council (NNC), the policy-making and coordinating body on nutrition in the country, and local government units are mandated to coordinate the celebration of Nutrition Month (Section 7, Presidential Decree No. 491 or Nutrition Act of the Philippines, 25 June 1974).

Focus of 2007 Nutrition Month

The theme for the 33rd NM celebration is "Healthy lifestyle ng kabataan, landas sa kinabukasan!" The theme focuses on the nutrition and health needs of Filipino adolescents particularly on the consumption of nutritious food to prepare them for adulthood and the practice of healthy lifestyle to stay fit and healthy.

The World Health Organization (WHO) noted that the increasing prevalence and incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCD) during adulthood result from faulty nutrition and lifestyle practices during pre-adolescence and adolescence. Thus, teaching adolescents to practice healthy lifestyle and proper nutrition will give them a better chance to become healthy and productive adults in the future.

Consequences of poor nutrition among adolescents

Adolescents have increased national requirements for growth and development. If not given the proper nutrition and care, the adolescent may become undernourished. Poor nutrition among adolescents can lead to: slow growth development, poor school performance, sluggishness, easy fatigability, delay in the onset of secondary sex characteristics, micronutrient deficiencies particularly anemia, poor nutrition in adulthood.

Ways to promote proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle among adolescents

Provide a supportive family environment - ensure that nutritious meals are available with special attention to a nutritious breakfast; parents as role models of good nutrition; engage in physical activities among family members.

Foster nutrition-friendly schools - ensure that school canteens provide a variety of options of nutritious but affordable meals and snacks; schools can help in promoting safe and nutritious foods among vendors in the vicinity of the school; integrate nutrition in the secondary education curriculum; conduct nutrition assessment, weighing scales and height charts should be available for students to determine their weight and height regularly; ensure that students have enough time for snacks in the morning and afternoon; conduct forum, discussions, seminars on nutrition and healthy lifestyles to increase awareness and to clarify misconceptions about nutrition. This is also an opportunity for adolescents to express their opinions.

Community and local government support for adolescent nutrition and healthy lifestyle - conduct community assemblies on proper nutrition and healthy lifestyles; the Sangguniang Kabataan can conduct nutrition assessment among the youth in coordination with municipal/city nutrition office; provide iron supplements especially for female adolescents; promote sports activities; enforce an ordinance banning children from purchasing cigarettes and alcoholic beverages and or regulating the sale of junk foods; engage adolescents in community nutrition programs such as Operation Timbang, nutrition education, food production programs and participate in decision-making; Sangguniang Kabataan to allocate a portion of the SK fund for nutrition program for adolescents; organize adolescent counseling programs to address psychological and social aspects of adolescent stresses; provide reproductive health services especially to avoid teenage pregnancies.

Media and civil society - promote a healthy body image of adolescents as not being too thin but that of having normal weight; promote nutrition by providing correct information especially about fad diets which adolescents are likely to experiment with.

For more information on nutrition and health, contact your City/Municipal Action Officer and/or the NNC Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator. You may also write or call the National Nutrition Council, 2332 Nutrition Building, Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Taguig City; tel. nos. 843-5838, 818-7938 or fax number 843-5818; e-mail address: oed_nnc@yahoo.com

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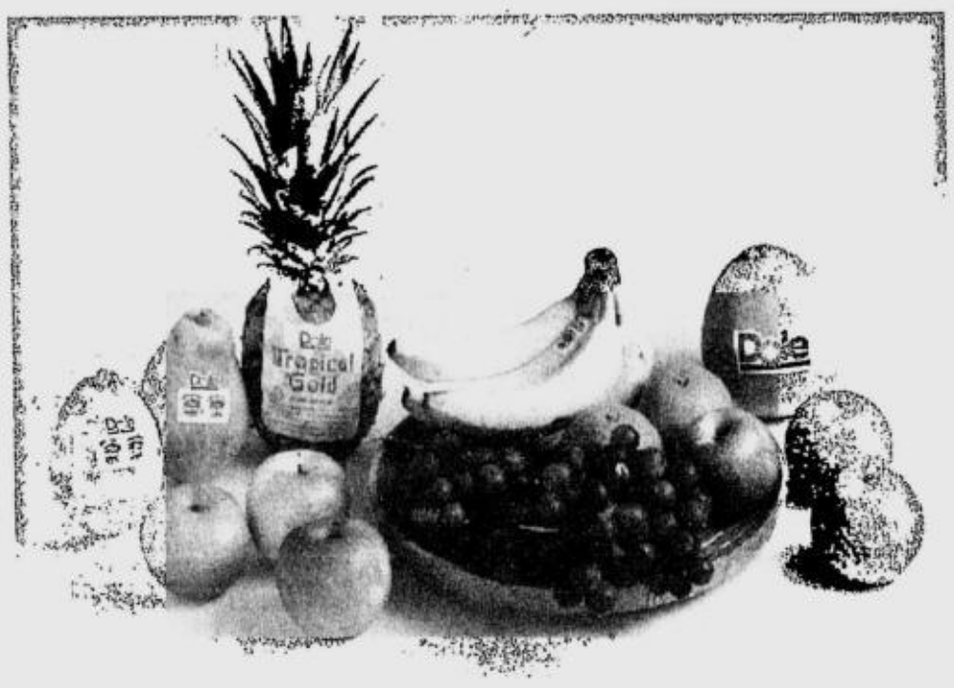

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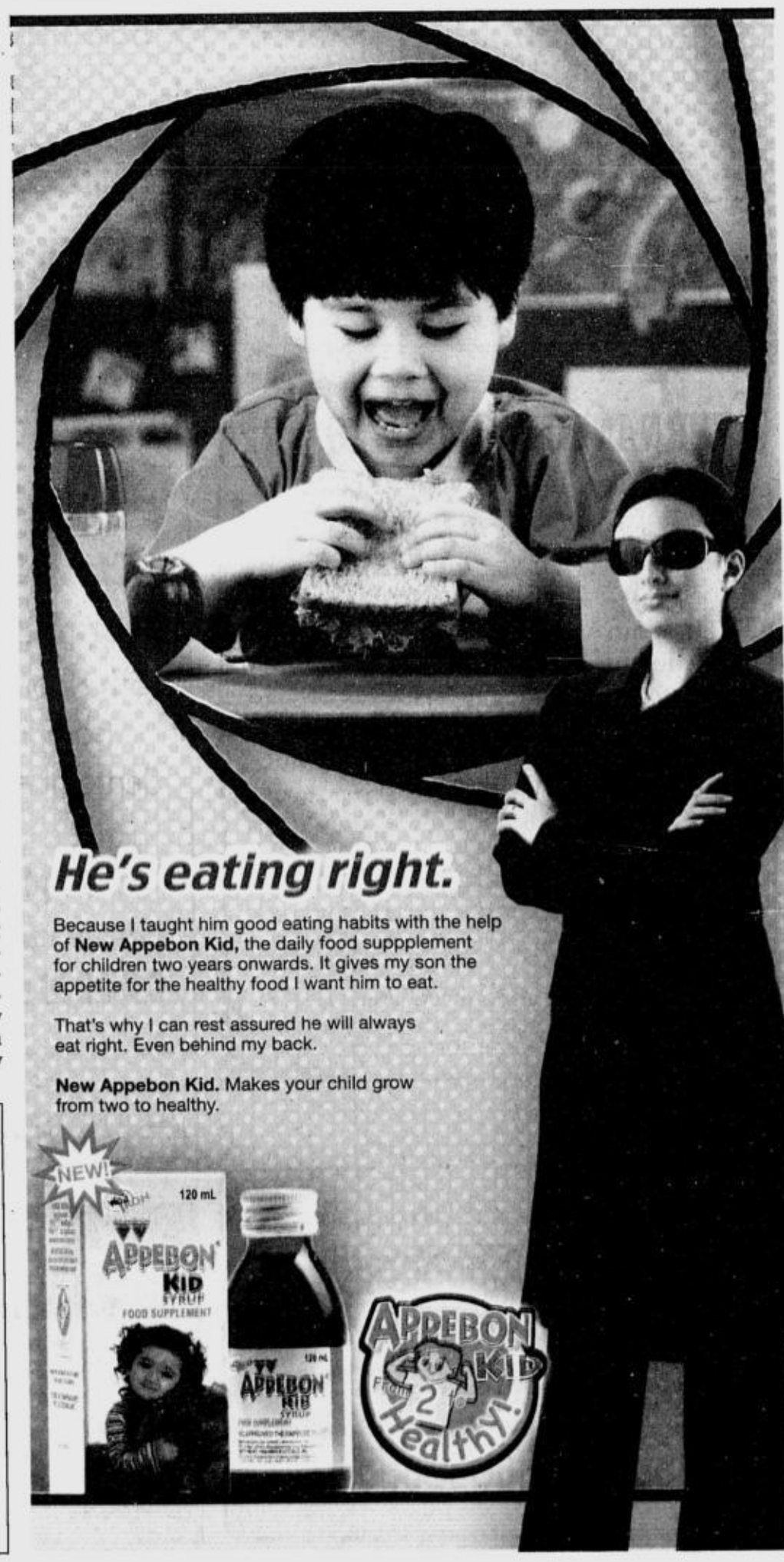

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Teach your child good eating habits.

As a mom, you know very well that eating healthy is important in your child's growth. But making him eat veggies, fruits and fish could be a big problem, right? That's why it's crucial that you teach him good eating habits early on. Here are some tips that can help you in taking on that mission:

1. **Set a good example.**
If your child sees you eating veggies and fruits, he will also be encouraged to try them.

2. **Create interesting stories about healthy foods.**
That way, your kid will learn the nutritional value of the right food you want him to eat.

3. **Make healthy foods appetizing to your child's eyes through colorful and creative presentations.**
Veggies and fruits in different shapes could be enticing to your kid.

4. **Give him New Appebon Kid.**
It's a daily food supplement that can help give your child the appetite for the food you want him to eat. It has Lysine, B-Complex and Iron, which are important in your child's growth.

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NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees of NORMISIST formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency is now open.

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Must not be more than 63 years old on the date set as deadline for submission of documentary requirements.
2. Must be a Filipino Citizen.
3. Must be a holder of an earned Doctoral degree.
4. Must have proven track record in top administrative position in the academic field such as Vice-President, Dean or Campus Director, whether in private or public, for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by documents (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professional and/or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership in school administration and managerial skills with the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of NORMISIST.
6. Must be of good moral character.
7. Must have not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge.

Qualified applicants should submit the following:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to
   NONA S. RICAFORT, Ph.D.
   Chairperson of the NORMISIST Board of Trustees
   c/o Search Secretariat
   NORMISIST, Ampayon, Butuan City
2. Curriculum Vitae with authenticated/certified supporting documents.
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission and thrusts for NORMISIST.
4. Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by a government physician.
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician.
6. Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212 under oath
8. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of CY 2006

Important: Interested applicants must send the abovementioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before August 7, 2007 to either of the following:

MR. PHILIP M. LINA
Chairperson, Search Committee
for NORMISIST Presidency
NORMISIST, Ampayon, Butuan City

or

NONA S. RICAFORT, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Commission on Higher Education
5/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue,
Ortigas Center Pasig City 1605

Attention: ARMIE LIELA M. MORDENO, CSEE
Board Secretary V and Secretariat of the
Search Committee for NORMISIST Presidency

Attention: IMELDA G. CALVO
Executive Assistant and Secretariat of the
Search Committee for NORMISIST Presidency

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   - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

II. **CV Anesthesia Division**
   - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
   - 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

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I. Nuclear Medicine Division
II. Biological & Clinical Laboratory Division
III. CV Radiological Sciences Division
IV. 1 year Fellowship Program
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- *Deadline for Submission of application is on August 31, 2007*
- *Academic year 2008 starts on January 1, 2008*

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs 2" x 2" colored picture

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager II
The Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela O. Rivera or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-24-01 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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Notice is hereby given that Ms. **EVANGELINE J. RAQUEDAN** whose picture appears above is accused of the crime of **Qualified Theft and Falsification of Commercial Document** docketed as Criminal Case No. **7491-7493** and **7494**, respectively of the Regional Trial Court of San Fernando City, La Union and is the subject of an outstanding warrant of arrest. Positive information leading to her arrest shall be rewarded. Please contact Atty. Cesar G. David at Tel. Nos. 811-9863 and/or 811-9873.

(PDI–July 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Lope de Vega St., Sta. Crûz, Manila

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All particulars relative to eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, opening of bids, evaluation, post-qualification and award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Schedule of Activities:

	Date/Time	Venue
Pre-bid Conference	August 7, 2007 - 2:00 pm	Reception Room
Bid Opening	August 20, 2007 - 2:00 pm	Reception Room

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ELISEA S. MARQUEZ, M.D., D.P.B.A.**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 28, 2007)

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(PDI - July 28, 2007)

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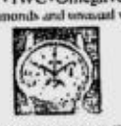

09178884040
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WANTED
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OBITUARIES

On the first death anniversary,
Saturday, July 28, 2007 of

AMPARO B. NAVARRETE-NAÑAGAS, M.D.

wife of the late **VICTOR T. NAÑAGAS, M.D.**

and in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass being offered in various churches, your prayers are being requested by the families of

Virginia N. Nañagas-Bactad
Victor N. Nañagas, Jr. M.D.
Veronica N. Nañagas-Devon, M.D.
Vitaliano N. Nañagas, II
Victoria N. Nañagas

Thank you.

FERNANDO M. CALIMAG, JR.

February 14, 1957 – July 23, 2007

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 23, 2007.

He is survived by his loving wife **Eden**; his loving children **Jonjon**, **Dondon**, **Tonton**, **Ronron** and **Kariz**; his loving parents, brothers, sister and in-laws. They and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Sanctuarium, No. 739 G. Araneta Avenue, near Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

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In Loving Memory
On the 3rd Death Anniversary of

PLENIO S. BRION, SR.

of San Pablo City and Quezon City who passed away on July 28, 2004.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Parish of the Holy Sacrifice – UP Diliman, Q.C. – 6:00 p.m.
San Lorenzo Ruis Parish – Tierra Verde Homes, Q.C. – 6:30 p.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish – Pasong Tamo, Q.C. – 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul the First Hermit Parish – San Pablo City – 5:15 a.m.
Carmel of the Incarnate Word Chapel – San Pablo City – 7:30 a.m.
St. Isidor's Church – Yuba City, California, U.S.A. – 5:00 p.m.

We, his wife **Imelda Sahagun-Brion**, sons **Plenio, Jr. & Plenio II**, daughter-in-law **Crispina Pacaldo-Brion**, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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I have fought the good fight... I have finished the race... I have kept the faith...

JUDGE DAVID DE LIMA MIRANDO, JR.

RTC JUDGE of MARIKINA
From IRIGA CITY and QUEZON CITY

*Peacefully joined his Creator and his loving wife **Minda Montero Mirando** on July 22, 2007 at the age of 61.*

His loving children **Sheila** and **David III**; son-in-law **Jhon Calado**; sister **Hedy**; brothers **Boboy & Ofelia, Mel & Eloi**, and **Doree**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

The body lies in state at the Rose Garden Chapel, The Sanctuarium, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 29, 2007 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park in Quezon City, immediately following the 2:00 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection at The Sanctuarium.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY

9 ways to prevent roof leak

By Tessa R. Salazar

IN FENG SHUI PARLANCE, at least in Conniezen.com, the house is an "extension of the body." The roof is the spine or backbone of the structure. The living room is the heart; the bedroom is the lung; the dining room the stomach.

So what gives when the roof—the spine—is leaking? And when it rains, can this faulty "backbone" still be considered a reliable shield of the home's "vital organs"?

Ninety nine percent of house roofs in the Philippines are made of GI sheets stretched over a black iron frame. True, you may see tile roofs and—on rarer occasions—shingles, but these are still laid down on a GI roof to begin with, according to Gideon Javier, project management director of Colliers International.

Javier says leaks come from two places—a physical hole in the sheet metal or an unsuccessful attempt to join two complex roof structures together. "When I was young my mother patched our roof with a paste of styrofoam melted into gasoline. Now roof patching compounds can be bought by the sachet," he adds.

1 Javier points out to INQUIRER Property that the best way to look for leaks is to look into the air space above the ceiling and look for telltale signs, like water pooling or stains on the top side of the ceiling. Trace these to the source of the leak.

He also notes that as much as possible, let a professional do this. "In all likelihood he will have to do what comes next. Sources can include actual holes or holes caused by improperly sealed screws. If you have insulation, you will have to move it aside to trace it and patch the hole from the top."

2 "A lot of houses have a complex roof designed to impress. But many times, they leak. Fixing these should be done by a professional roofer. One good way of doing this is to get a referral from a well-known roofing company. There is a bit of art to this so ask the hard questions as to what it will actually involve."

3 Boy Morcilla, vice president and COO of Steel Building Systems and Technologies, shares what he describes a common sense advice: one should apply or fix roof nails or screws on the top of the corrugation of the roofing sheets, rather than at the bottom or concave portion. Long-span roofing corrugations are called ribs.

4 "Make the roof slope steeper. Fifteen degrees or higher is recommended. The steeper the slope the better it can withstand the strong winds, too. If your roof is lower than 15 degrees, it becomes vulnerable to the suction effect of strong winds during typhoons, thus we see some roofs being pulled off by winds during typhoons," Morcilla adds.

5 It's better to use long-span metal roofing than the commercial-length roofing sheets, because they can be manufactured at the full-length requirement of the sheets, thus eliminating overlapping joints, which are also potential sources of leaks.

6 During installation, avoid stepping on the weak portion of the sheets. Instead, step only on where the roof nails or screws are (top of the corrugations or ribs). This will avoid putting too much stress and movement on the sheets against the screws, which could become the source of leaks later on.

7 Javier's advice: If you live under trees have your gutters cleaned regularly.

8 In buying or building a house, choose a simple roof design.

9 "Have your roofs built by a reputable roofing company. If it costs a lot less than others in the market, you are asking for trouble," Javier quips.

Roofs and energy efficiency

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

IN THE SWELTERING HEAT these days, many people are adopting technical solutions to improve the conditions in their homes. The most common solution, probably the most expensive, is of course to add more air-conditioners, exhaust fans and electric fans.

At a time when many countries are talking of energy efficiency and energy conservation, these are costly alternatives that also cause harm to the environment. Air-conditioning exhaust and power generation add carbon emissions to the atmosphere. Besides, these expensive appliances are useless in the face of the power brownouts and a looming energy crisis.

What many do not realize is that the biggest source of their problem is the roof. The roof forms part of the building envelope or shell. The other parts of the outer skin of the house include the walls, the exterior doors and windows.

The roof is the most important part of the building envelope. As some people say, a house is a roof. It is the most important because it is the part most exposed to the sun and is difficult to protect.

For houses without any trees or vegetation around it, the exposed roof absorbs radiation and heats up. This exposure results in very strong heat gain which is then transmitted to the interiors. It then raises the temperature of the air with which it is contact and transfers this to people and objects within the house.

This heat buildup between the roof and the ceiling if not released out of the roof-ceiling cavity is what causes air-conditioners to work double time to reduce the heat load.

It is therefore critical that roof form, construction and material be considered to maximize its performance as a building envelope.

Different types of roofs

Flat roofs absorb heat the throughout the day. Heat gains from a flat roof can be excessive unless a cavity ceiling can be made below the roof.

Domed, arched and pitched roofs offer an advantage over the flat roof. During the day, in contrast to the flat roof, these roof forms have part of the roof directly under the sun, and part of it in shade. The exposed part builds up heat then transfers this heat to the shaded cooler part. This heat exchange process is effective in reducing heat buildup.

These roof forms should have good ceiling height to give room above the heads of building occupants since warm air rises.

Roof ventilation

Heat build up inside the roof-ceiling cavity can be reduced by allowing natural ventilation to flow through the roof surface. To do this effectively, roof slope must be oriented toward the prevailing breezes.

To flush out radiated heat inside the roof cavity several ventilation openings should be installed. This system is also effective in cutting down moisture and humidity in the roof space.

A word of caution: there must be a difference in height between the inlet and outlet ventilation openings. This difference will encourage the flow of warm air from the lower to the upper opening through convection.

Roof overhangs are very helpful in protecting walls and openings from heat gain. They also help to avoid rainwater splashing on the walls.

An interior courtyard catches cool air which is heavier than warm air and therefore slides down the roof slope to the courtyard. This cools the spaces around the courtyard.

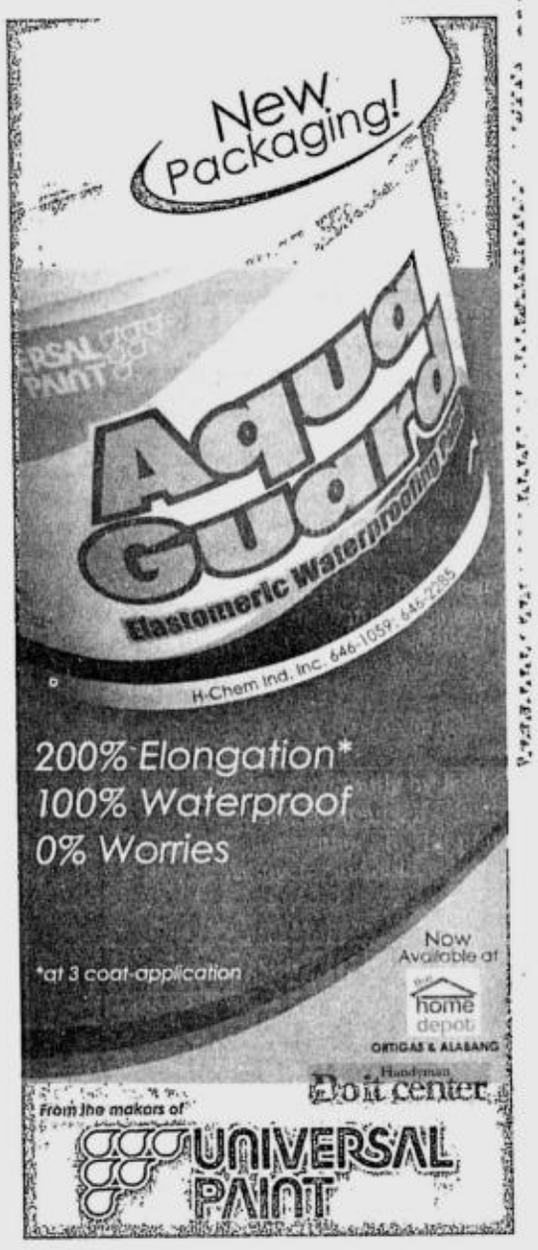
Energy burden

It is ironic that when people economize in building construction, they scrimp on the roof. However, they still manage to put attractive features like doors, windows, wrought iron grills and very fancy wall finishes like decorative stones. This oversight leads to an energy-inefficient home. This is what some experts refer to as energy burden imposed by poor design.

President Clinton's recent environmental program which involves the granting of funds for the greening of 16 cities in different parts of the world cited the use of light-colored roofs as one of the strategies to fight global warming.

Good roof design is one way that we can adopt the green rule to think global and act local.

For inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.



Suite sailing

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I TOOK A four-day sailing trip in the North of Sicily. Sailing from the coastal town of Milazzo near the Strait of Messina in the northeast of Sicily. Our destination was the rugged and volcanic Aeolian Islands, the cluster of islands where, as Homer wrote in the "Iliad," Odysseus was lost for many months.

Our mode of transport was to be our accommodations too: a 10-meter, semi-racer sailboat. It runs with two main sails and has a slender and smart profile designed to efficiently slice through water. Outdoor, it has teak wood clad floors, fiberglass decks, and right outside its hatch, two benches that could seat at least four persons. Perfect for myself and three other companions.

The hull of the boat is no larger than three meters at its widest and 10 meters long. From this hull rises decks, roofs, cabins and hatches, to form what I would define in my language as a 25-sq-m, two-bedroom suite.

Interior design

The interior planning and design of the sailboat is quite clever. Our boat, the "Carine," had in addition to the two sleeping cabins, a living cum-dining space, kitchen and shared toilet. The common areas are set in the center of the hull, which also has the highest headroom, while the sleeping quarters are in the bow and stern where height clearance was less. In these cabins, closets were tucked into the walls and had locks that kept doors from swinging open as the boat tilted at precarious angles during sails.

Underneath the bed mattresses, the platforms opened to more storage spaces. And there was yet even more storage space underneath the floors! The cherry wood flooring was a floating floor system where large planks could be lifted out to reveal more cavities for stowing away large items.

Windows in the cabins were not on the walls but were instead in the form of overhead hatches which efficiently vented hot air and replenished the rooms with cool air from the outside.

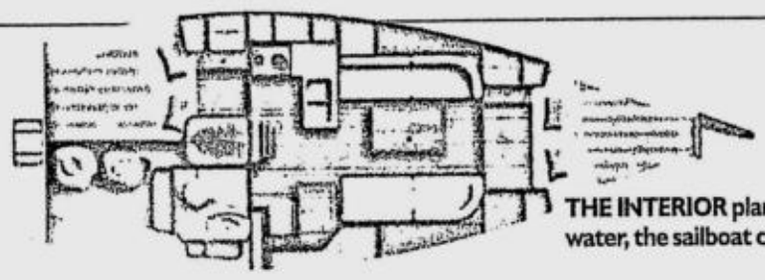
The living-dining area had bench seats that faced each other, with a slender cocktail table in the middle with flaps that folded up and enlarged it into a real dining table. Behind the seats were long rows of ledges which was used as pantry space. Adjacent to this area, the "kitchen" had a sink, a four-burner oven, and a built-in chest-type freezer and chiller. The sink had a spout for freshwater and another for saltwater, used for preliminary dishwashing, and which was set in motion by a foot pump.

One-meter affair

The bathroom was all of a one-meter affair—a fully built-up acrylic cubicle, comparable in size to that of an airplane's toilet, with fixtures downscaled to comfortably fit into this tiny cubicle, and with fittings mechanically designed to abort any backflow. It is also designed to make use of sea water for flushing. Other than that, we had a tank-full supply of freshwater that we cautiously made use of.

From this little bathroom I took my pleasurable warm showers. From the little kitchenette flowed out delicious meals of pasta, tuna and salads. On deck, we napped, rinsed, ate and steered the boat. Inside, we had our stash of a fully loaded pantry and kitchen, and more than enough sheets, blankets, pillows and bedspace to ensure a good night's sleep. From this less-than-30-sq-m accommodation, we had everything we needed to enjoy living in a boat.

Small space it was. But with minute details thought out and amenities carefully planned, our tiny accommodation was larger in enjoyment than it was in scale.



THE INTERIOR plan of our suite on water, the sailboat called "Carine."

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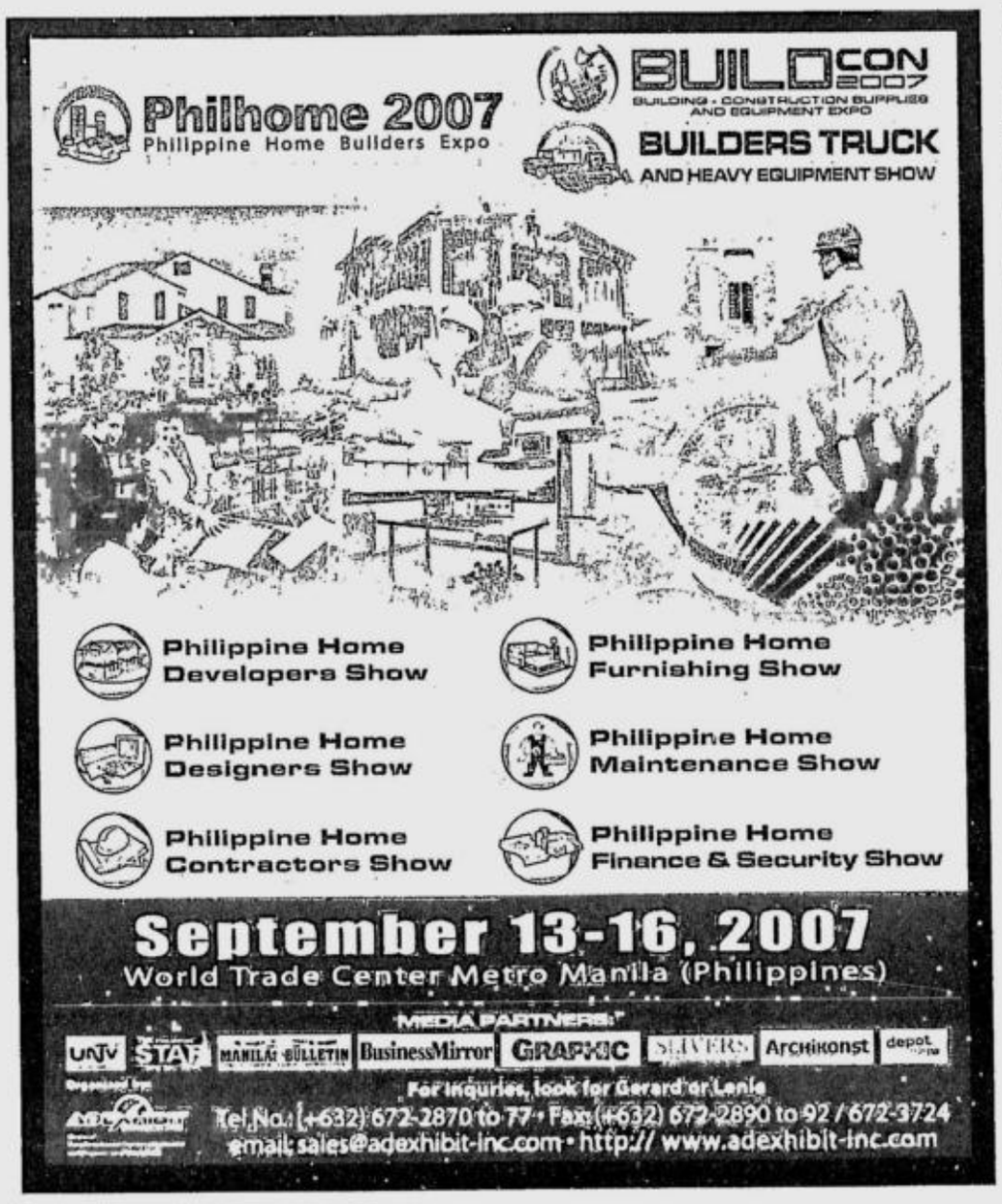

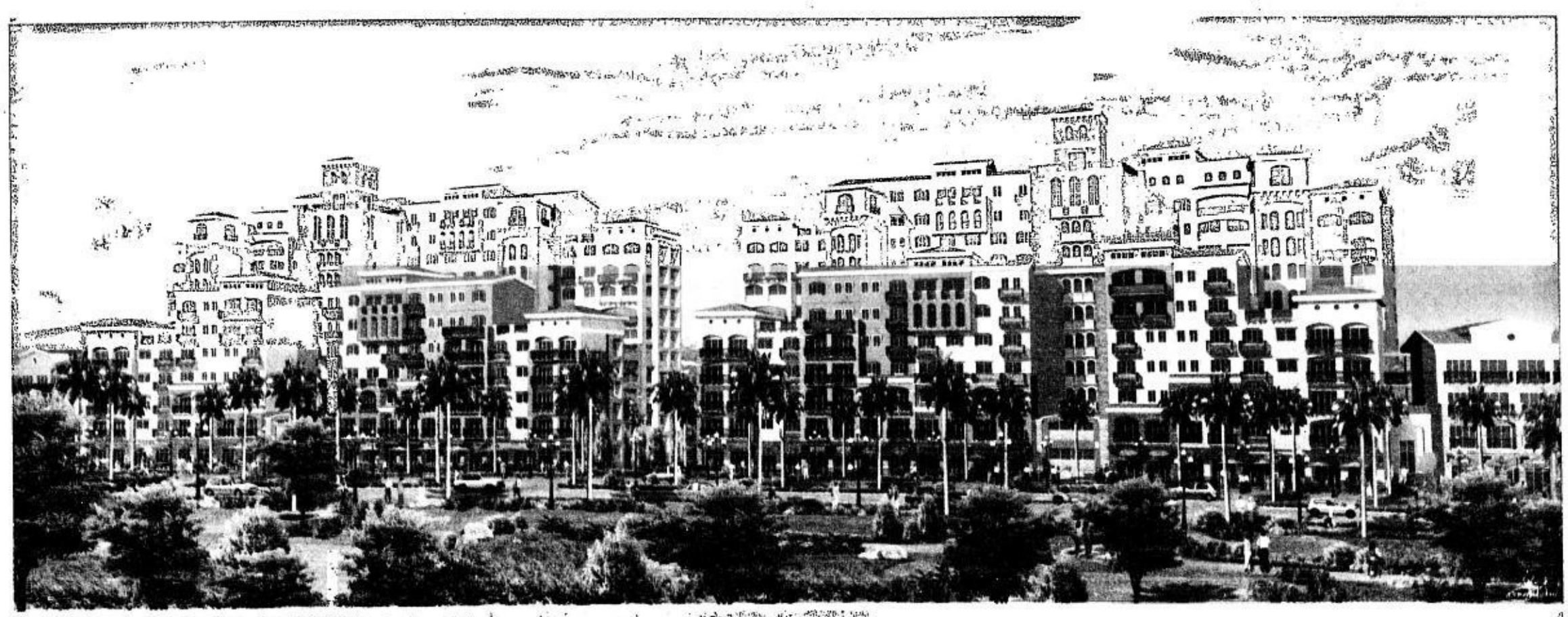

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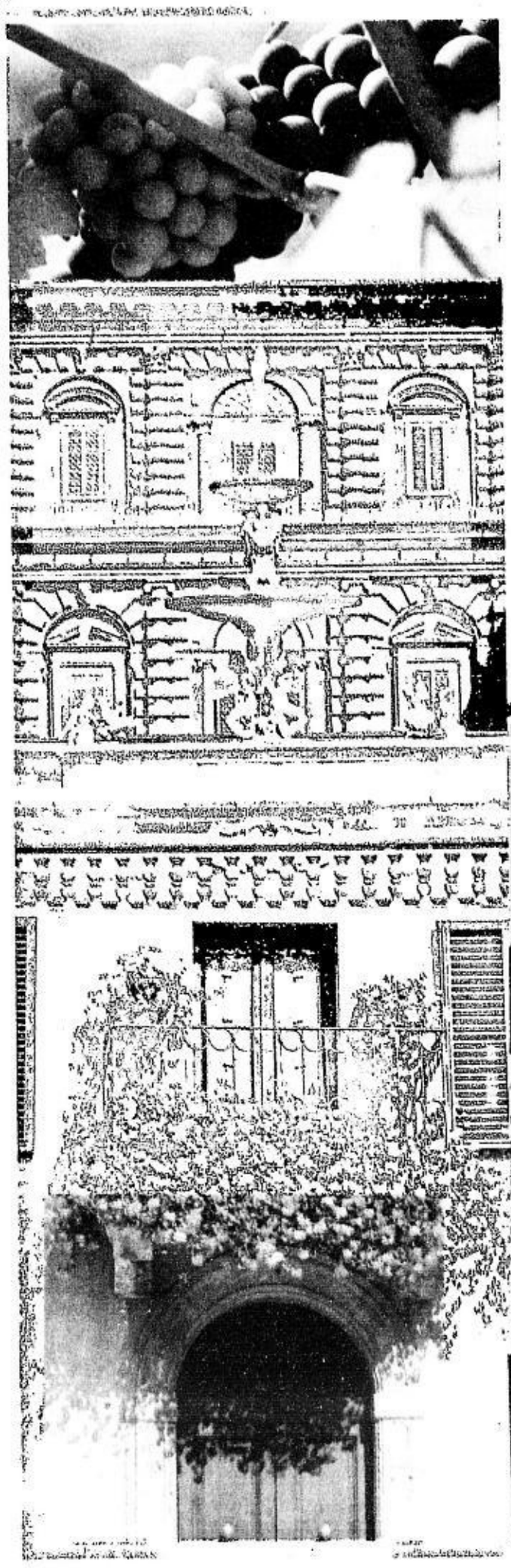

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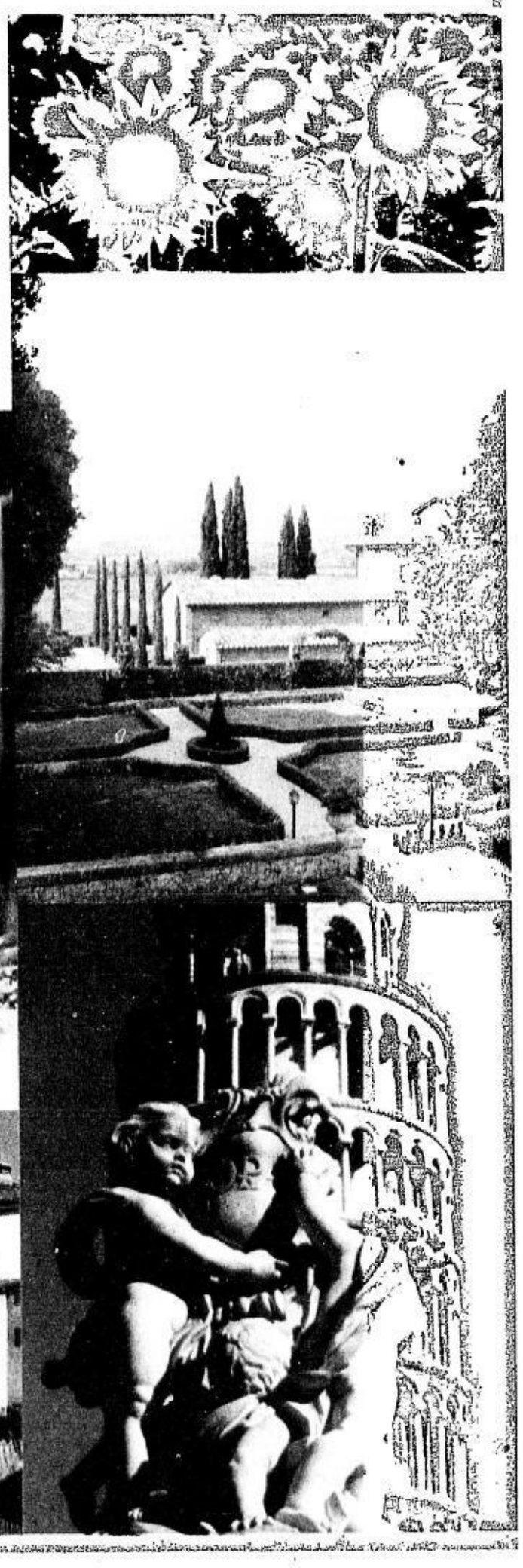

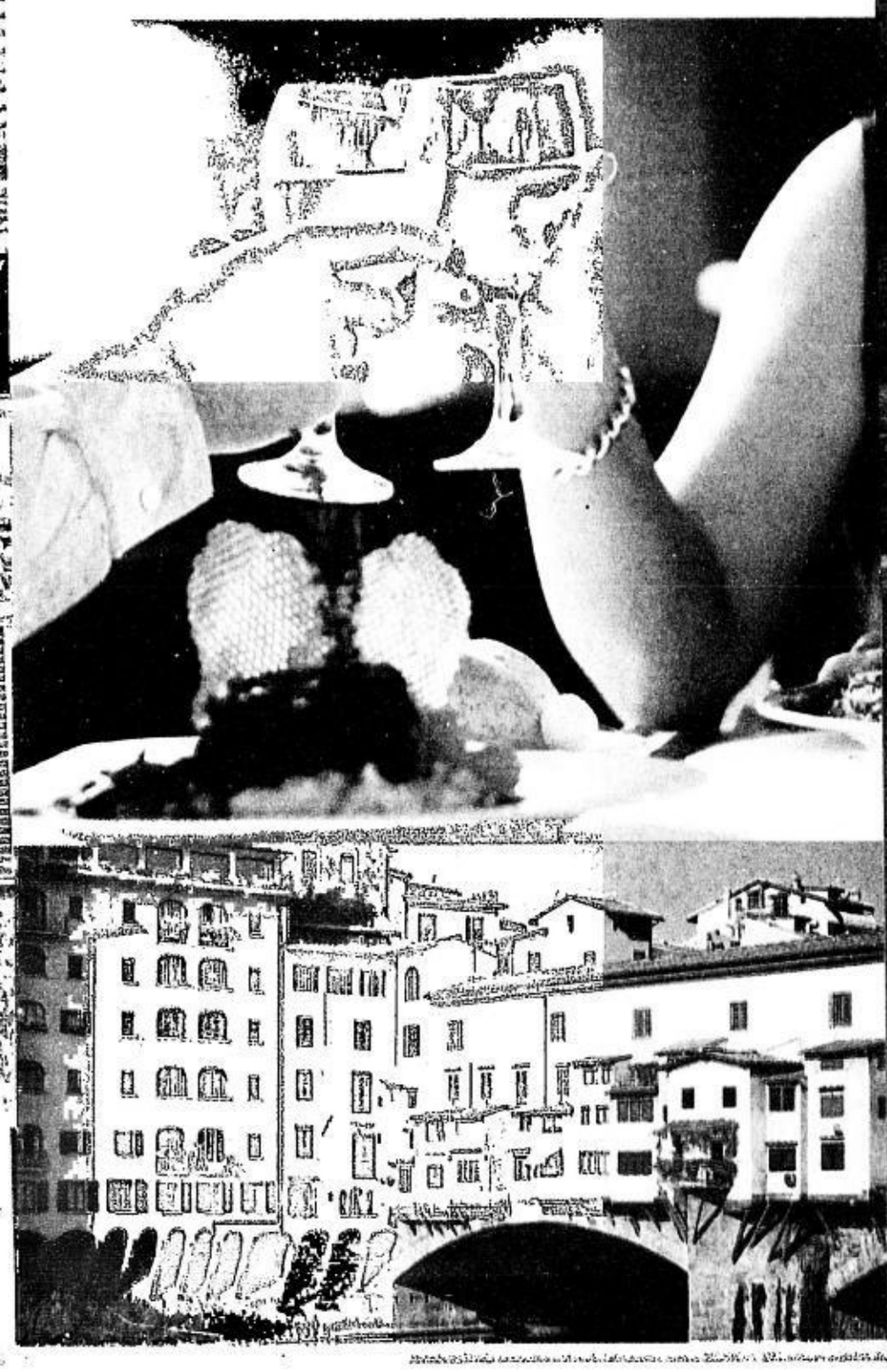

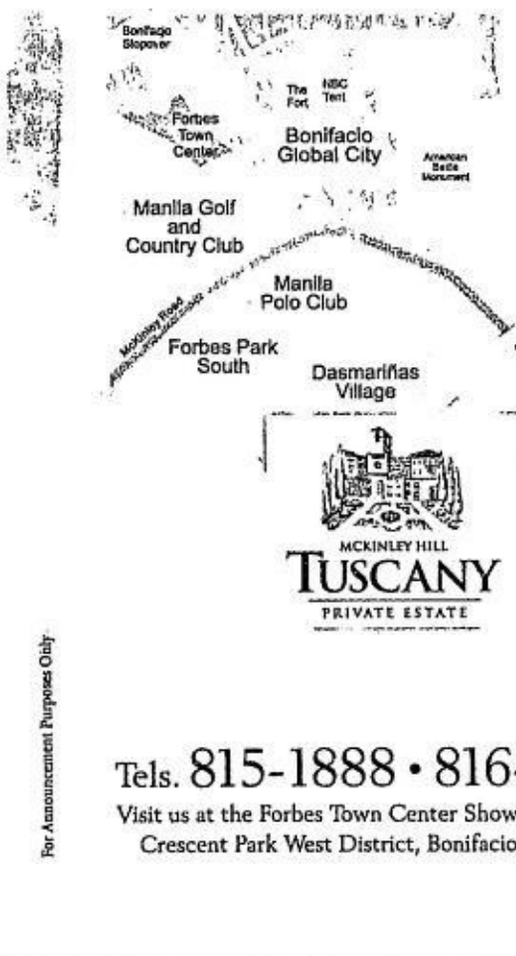

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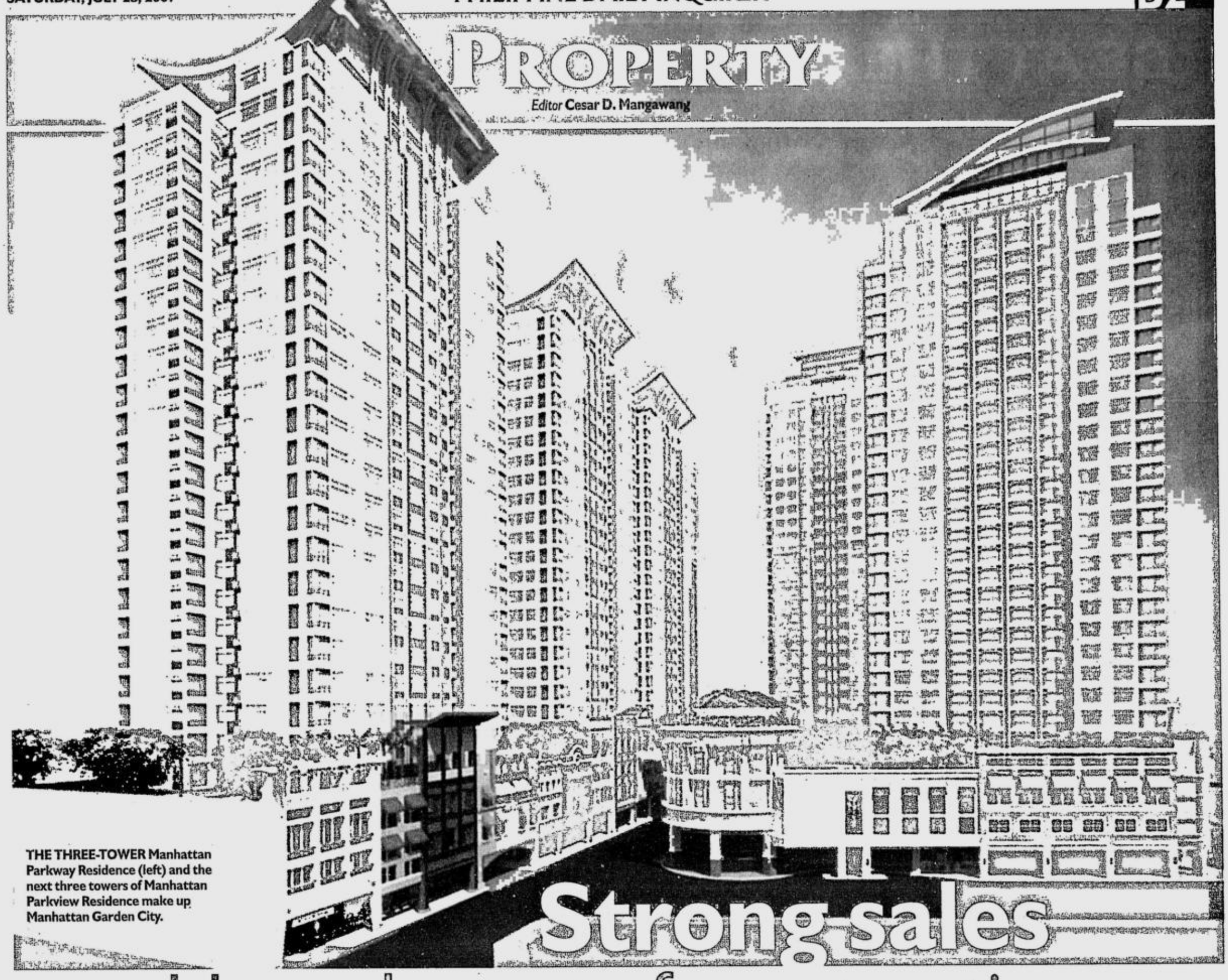
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



THE THREE-TOWER Manhattan Parkway Residence (left) and the next three towers of Manhattan Parkview Residence make up Manhattan Garden City.

Strong sales enable early start of construction of Manhattan Garden City

By Cesar D. Mangawang

Officials of the two major project proponents attended the groundbreaking as a strong sign of commitment to Manhattan Garden City

WITH ITS RECORD-breaking sales, the development of Manhattan Garden City on 5.7 hectares of prime land at the Araneta Center is shifting to high gear as property giant Megaworld Corp. recently broke ground for its first three towers.

As a strong sign of commitment to Manhattan Garden City, officials of the two major project proponents—Araneta Group CEO Jorge Araneta, Megaworld Corp. Chair and CEO Andrew Tan and Megaworld Central Properties Inc. president Anthony Charlemagne Yu—attended the event. They were joined by Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

On hand to add glamour to the groundbreaking were some beautiful women who previously and currently won the Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant. They were Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2007 Ana Theresa Licaros, Bb. Pilipinas-World 2007 Margaret Wilson, Bb. Pilipinas-International 2007 Nadia Lee dela Cruz-Shani, Bb. Pilipinas-International 2006 Denille Valmonte and Bb. Pilipinas-International 2004 Maan Bayot.

Stunning achievement

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Yu advised homebuyers: "We at Megaworld have tracked the ups and downs of property prices before and after the 1997 financial crisis. Prices are going up again... The time to buy is now before prices go up even further." According to Araneta, Manhattan Garden City is a stunning achievement of the Araneta Center redevelopment plan.

Belmonte said during the event he is expecting Manhattan Garden City to change the face of not only Araneta Center but Quezon City as well. Meanwhile, Fernando promised a coordinated traffic flow at Araneta Center's environs.

The groundbreaking signaled the start of construction of the first three towers. Making this possible is the design and construction team comprised of Design Alliance, design architects and architect of record; and BF Construction, general contractor.

Impressive model units

Model units of Manhattan Garden City, created by Design Alliance, Megaworld's in-house design team, can be viewed at the Manhattan Garden City showroom within Gateway Mall.

The 45-square-meter one-bedroom unit, for instance, has a trendy modern Asian theme. The living and dining areas appear larger because of the open layout. The use of mirror at the reception area also doubles the space.

Both sides of the white sofa with colorful pillows are accentuated by lamps and Chinese masks. The living room's feature wall is decorated with art tiles while a modern Chinese cabinet is guarded by three terra cotta soldiers. Dining will be a delight with a garden-themed meal setting.

The main showcase is the master bedroom with its red motif that is noted for bringing good luck. A meticulously designed headboard, pillows and a yellow umbrella strengthen the modern Chinese motif.

Not to be outdone is the 2-bedroom model unit which is fit for a regal lifestyle. A golden mirror is featured at the receiving area. The living room has beige- and gold-colored couches and a main table that has a lion king for its accent piece.

Chairs in beige and light brown as well as flowers at the centerpiece will definitely make dining a pleasure. There's a kitchen and a den, which can be converted into a guest room or servant's quarter. A majestic artwork, also in gold, is decked in the hallway. The spare bedroom in light blue has silver accessories that are well laid out.

Purple, yellow and gold pillows are found in the master bedroom. There's also a personal desk with brass accessories where the wife can prepare for gala events.

Safety at the site

Ensuring safety at the construction site is another concern of Megaworld and its contractors. Armed with an ISO 9001 certification as a property developer, Megaworld sees to it that all aspects of construction—from architecture to engineering and design and safety—follow strictest international quality standard.

Its contractors also adhere to this. Such standard is being followed in all Megaworld projects, including Manhattan Garden City.

Huge demand

The increasing demand for residential condominium units prompted Megaworld to launch the third tower of Manhattan Garden City sooner.

According to Yu, the preselling of Tower 3 ahead of schedule addresses the huge demand for residential condominium units.

He reported that 100 percent of Tower 1 and more than 80 percent of Tower 2 in MGC have been sold. "We received pending reservations for corner units, which are available at Tower 3. The first three towers will comprise what we call Manhattan Parkway Residence, which will be accentuated by a deluxe retail arcade for the enjoyment of our residents," he said.

According to Yu, the curvilinear façade of the three residential towers was inspired by Manhattan architecture.

"Manhattan Parkway Residence will therefore blend well with the other commercial structures within the Araneta Center while enhancing the color and character of its skyline," he said.

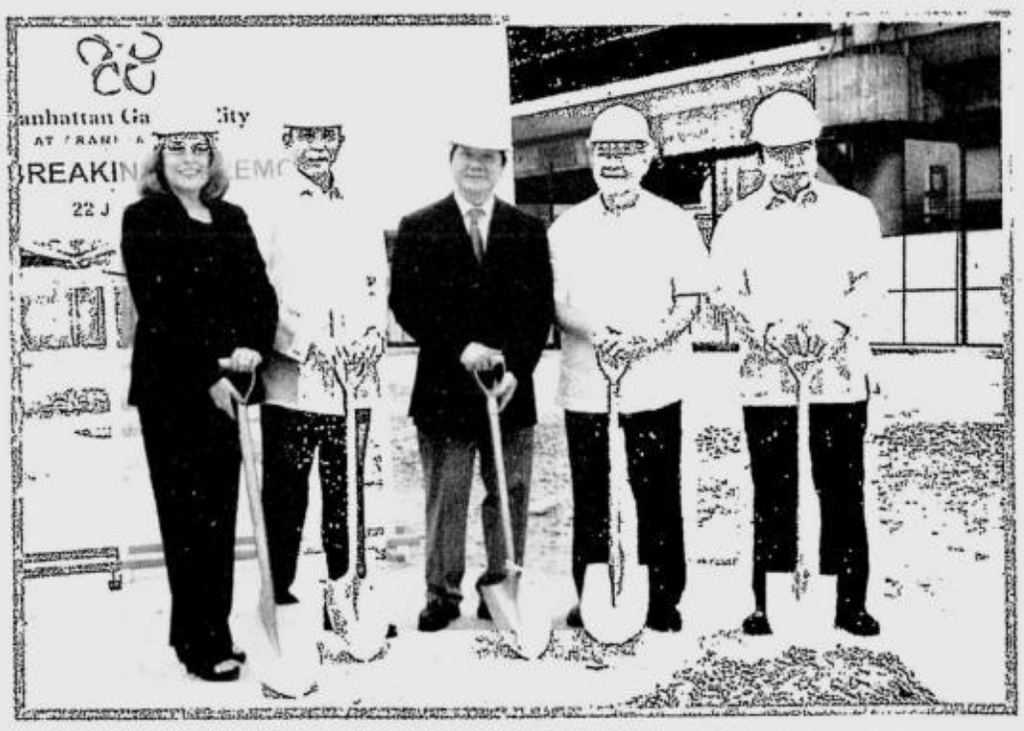
Track record

With a well-earned reputation as the country's No. 1 residential developer, Megaworld has over 2 million square meters of built space for residential properties ranging from luxury houses to impressive townhouses and condominiums. In fact, in the last 17 years, it has completed over 50 residential, commercial and office buildings.

Megaworld's landmark projects include the 17.8-hectare Eastwood City with the Eastwood City Cyberpark, the country's first IT ecozone; Manhattan Garden City at the Araneta Center; the 50-hectare McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio; Newport City at Villamor Air Base and CityPlace in Binondo, Manila.

With such an impressive record, there's no doubt that it will not take long before the whole Manhattan Garden City beautifies the Quezon City skyline.

FROM LEFT are Bb. Pilipinas-International 2006 Denille Valmonte, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2007 Ana Theresa Licaros, Bb. Pilipinas-World 2007 Margaret Wilson, Bb. Pilipinas-International 2007 Nadia Lee dela Cruz-Shani and Bb. Pilipinas-International 2004 Maan Bayot.



Property giant Megaworld Corp. and the Araneta Group break ground for the three-tower first phase of their landmark joint-venture project, Manhattan Garden City. Leading the ceremonies are, from left, Bb. Pilipinas Charity Inc. Chair Stella Marquez-Araneta, Araneta Group CEO Jorge Araneta, Megaworld Chair and president Andrew Tan, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

BE AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL

Manhattan Gard

RELAX after shopping at the Asian-themed 1-bedroom unit.

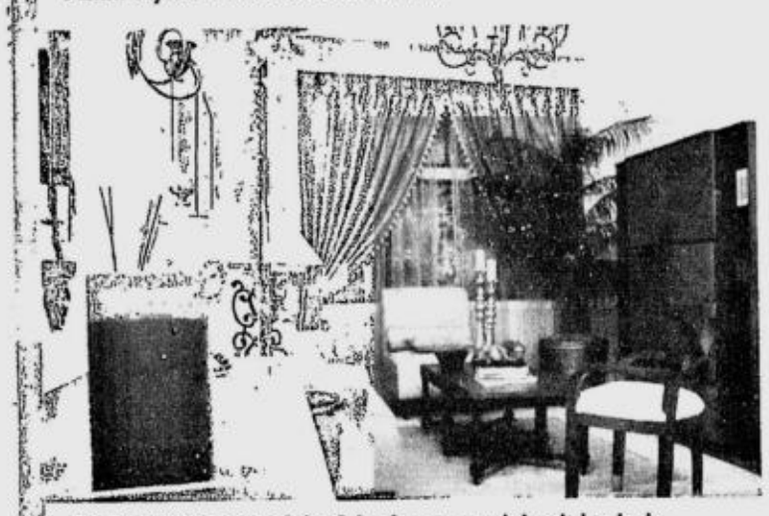
Bb. Pilipinas-World 2007 Margaret Wilson checks out the kitchen.

Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2007 Ana Theresa Licaros loves the Tropical-inspired model studio unit with balcony.

Bb. Pilipinas-International 2007 Nadia Lee dela Cruz-Shani having a relaxing time at the studio unit's bedroom.

ALWAYS have the freshest produce for your family at Rustan's Supermarket.

THREE terra cotta soldiers stand guard proudly at the Modern Asian-styled 1-bedroom model unit.



THE LIVING area of the 2-bedroom model unit basks in contemporary European elegance.

Live the good life

IF YOU WANT A HOME SURrounded by nature's beauty while still in the heart of the city, then Manhattan Garden City is the residential condominium for you. The buildings of the country's first-ever garden-inspired, transit-oriented community are connected to two existing mass-transit systems—the LRT2 and MRT3.

So whether you want to go to Quezon City, Makati or Ortigas to top universities such as Ateneo de Manila or the University of the Philippines, the train station is just a walk away from Manhattan Garden City's 729-meter long garden walkway. Since both mass transit systems are connected to LRT-1 getting to Parañaque or even as far as Caloocan will be no trouble at all.

While the new location lets you move around Metro Manila with more ease than ever before, you need not go far to find shopping and entertainment destinations. As a resident of Manhattan Garden City, the Gateway Mall and Araneta Center are literally right next door. The grand lobby of the condominium itself leads to an exciting array of specialty shops, dining places and entertainment centers, complete with its own 24-hour security for safety and privacy.

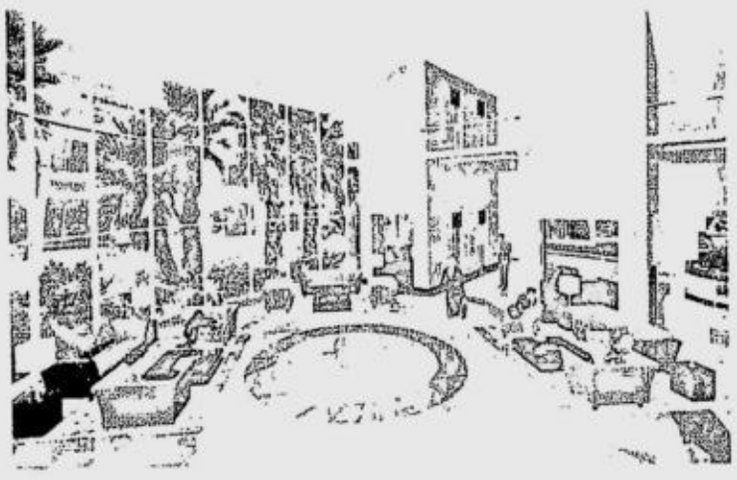
However, if you want to get away from the cosmopolitan life for a while, you can unwind in the trellised garden paths on the podium level of Manhattan Garden City with its jogging paths, fitness station, sauna, spa and a gym. Or you can cool off at the pool or even play an exciting match at the tennis court. There's also a tranquility garden for you to still your mind and enjoy a quiet moment or two. Manhattan Garden City gives you the best of both worlds.

AFTER A DAY of shopping, your deluxe Manhattan Garden City unit awaits.

Manhattan

MANHATTAN Garden City's deluxe retail arcade provides exciting opportunities for entrepreneurs.

A HOTEL-STYLE lobby brings you from home to work in a zip.



Work smart

IF YOU ARE AMONG THE PEOple whose motto is to work smart and spend more time with the family, then living and working at Manhattan Garden City, right at the Araneta Center, is your best option.

If you're a budding entrepreneur, consider opening a restaurant or service shop at Manhattan Garden City's deluxe retail arcade. Araneta Center's varied mix of shoppers from the A-list to the masses brings millions of customers every day—a perfect target base for any business.

Or if you want to build your career, there are various options also for you at the Araneta Center. Join any of its business process outsourcing (BPO) locators. Or shift your career to marketing or operations at any of the Araneta Center's myriad shopping, dining and service shops.

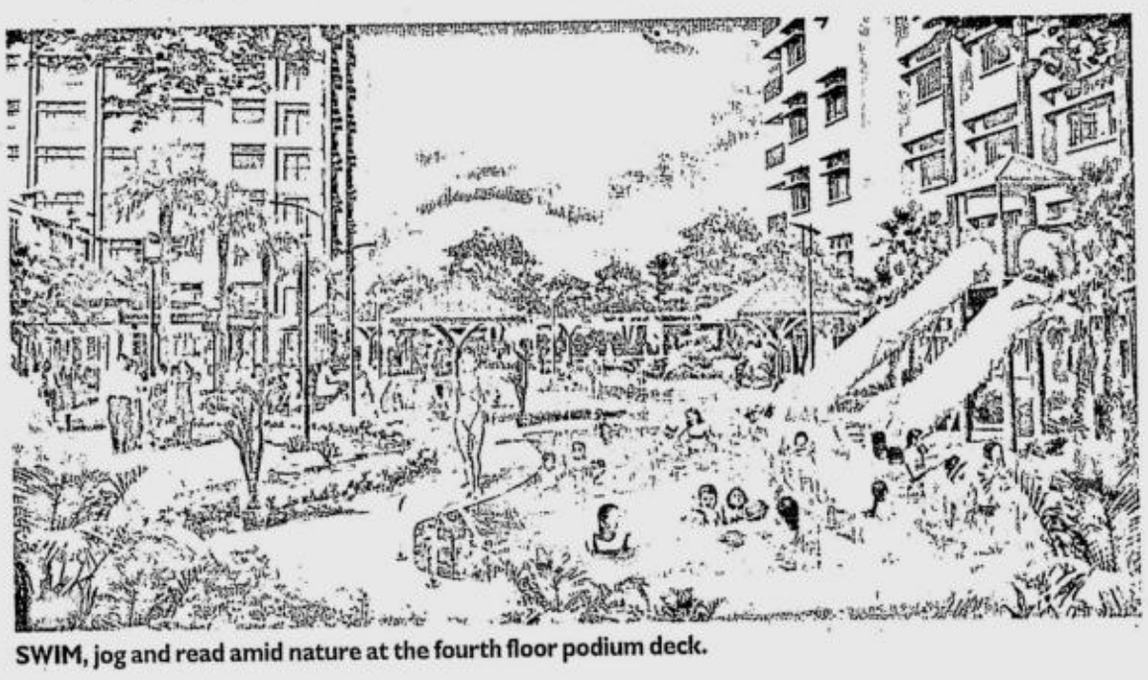
With work just a few steps from home, you and your family will have more time to enjoy Araneta Center's lifestyle offerings. Isn't that perfect?

HAVE a power lunch at Gateway Mall's Mandarin Café.

GO to Ortigas and Makati in a breeze.

CALL 810 3333 or 913 0234 NOW

en City Araneta Center



SWIM, jog and read amid nature at the fourth floor podium deck.

Bb. Pilipinas-World 2007 Margaret Wilson and Bb. Pilipinas-International 2007 Nadia Lee dela Cruz-Shani shopping at Gateway Mall.

ROMANCE is in the air at the Oasis.

SHOP 'til you drop at the Araneta Center.

Play actively

ENJOY the deluxe cinemas at Gateway Mall.

BE A MANHATTAN GARDEN city resident and have a wide choice for an active and a leisurely lifestyle not just in its periphery but within the very grounds of the property.

At Manhattan Parkway Residence, the first three towers scheduled to rise at Manhattan Garden City, you have many ways for the perfect jumpstart through its dozens of open and sheltered facilities at its sky gardens located four stories above the ground.

For example, you can do yoga or tai-chi at any of the Adult Fitness Stations or meditate in any of its Tranquility Gardens. These various quiet areas are ensconced throughout the tree-filled level and guarantee residents gentle ways to meet their mornings.

If you crave for some movement you can put on your track suit and best running shoes and hit the 729-meter long Garden City jogging trail with commanding views of Quezon City.

HAVE some time for yoga amidst nature.

You can also have access to these transit lines, enabling you to enjoy the fastest and safest public transport available and get you to your destinations anywhere in Metro Manila in a matter of minutes, which is not possible by any other means.

Trees, fountains, trellises and shrubbery at Manhattan Garden City will raise your sense of well-being. Park benches and a tranquility garden will easily induce your meditative mood. You can use the jogging pathways that will wind invitingly around the buildings.

You can also take a dip at the swimming pool, exercise at the fitness station, work out at the gym, or play at the tennis and basketball courts. After some strenuous activities, you can relax at the sauna, jacuzzi or the outdoor spa. You can also play at the game room, or shop at the upscale ground-level retail outlets.

You can have your kid also have their share of fun at the day care center and children's play area.

AFTER A DAY of shopping, home is just a short walk away.

LIVE just beside the Gateway Mall's A-list shops.

Garden City

ENJOY direct connection to both LRT2 and MRT3 lines.

Move freely

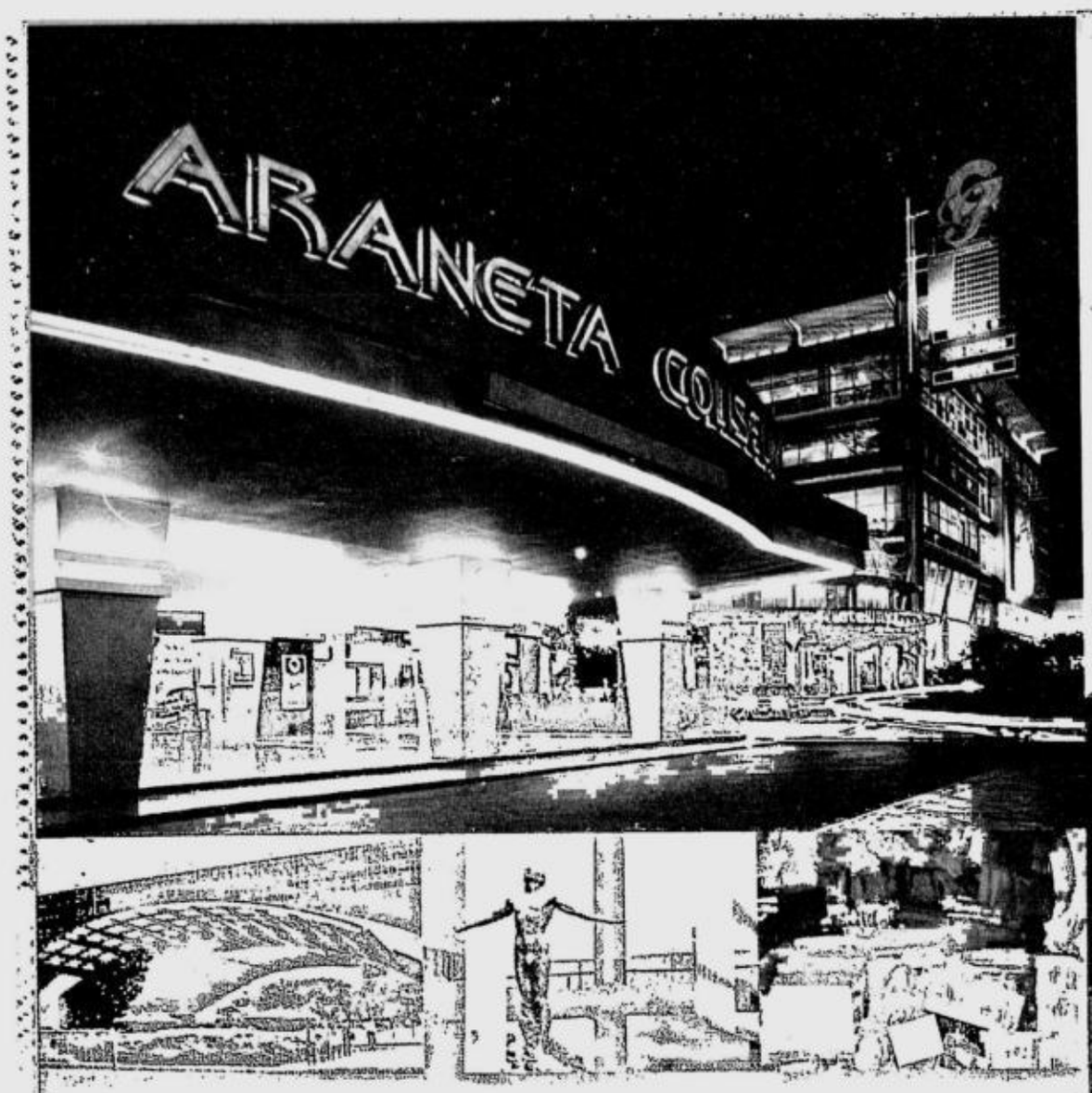
IF YOU WANT TO MOVE FREEly around the metropolis, then choosing Manhattan Garden City as a residence would be the right choice.

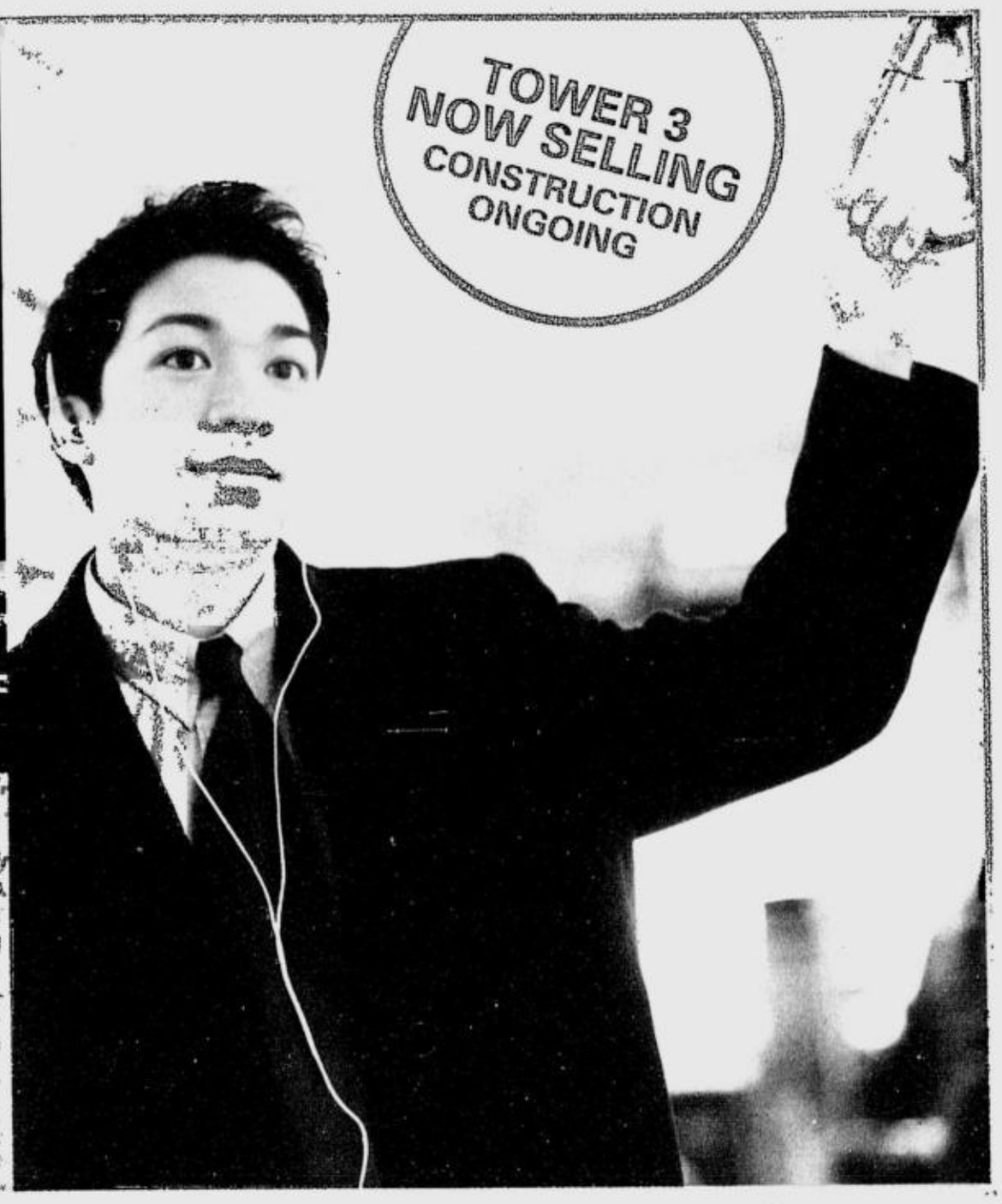
You'll be near the country's first all-in-one "malling" and commercial area, the only point where the train systems of the MRT and LRT2 converge.

You can have access to the 729-meter, elevated garden walkway that will connect all the towers directly to the two train systems and to Gateway Mall, placing you and other future residents practically at the heart of the metropolis.

As a Manhattan Garden City resident, you are minutes away from UP and Ateneo—two of the country's premier universities; a short ride away from the prime business districts of Makati and Ortigas; less than half an hour away via LRT 2 from the University Belt and the bargain-hunters' mecca of Divisoria; and just a stroll away from the multiple attractions of Araneta Center itself.

MANHATTAN Garden City claims the best location—right at the very heart of the Metro, at the Araneta Center.





Explore the city.

Or escape to paradise.

Manhattan Garden City
AT THE ARANETA CENTER

Move about *or* laze around. Work hard *or* rest easy.
At Manhattan Garden City, you don't even have to choose.

Here, a 729-meter-long garden walkway links all 20 towers of your residence to the mass transit systems. So you can go quickly from home to Ortigas, Makati and major destinations along EDSA via the MRT-3. Or to UP, Ateneo and Manila's university belt via the LRT-2. And since both systems are linked to LRT-1, enjoy a traffic-free ride to Monumento in the north and Baclaran in the south.

With the metro virtually just a train ride away, spend more time relaxing at your home's fourth-level garden deck. Take an early morning run at the tree-lined jogging trails and walkways.. Soak up some sun at the pool complex. Get physical at the fitness station and basketball and tennis courts. Or indulge in relaxing activities at the spa and sauna, jacuzzi, reflexology path and Tai Chi zone.

Enjoy the best of both worlds. Right here at Manhattan Garden City.

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Styling: Editor: DAVID MILAN
Cover Star: THE ALL-STARS
Shot on location: NAIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Matchmaker, Matchmaker. Let Super set you up page E1

The dating secrets of the Super! staff revealed page E2

Gino de la Paz's six degrees of irration page D4

Sex, drugs and violence: Indie film tribu explores the underbelly of society page D2

Are the rootless route-less? page D1

Kenneth Cobonpue's elementary design page D2

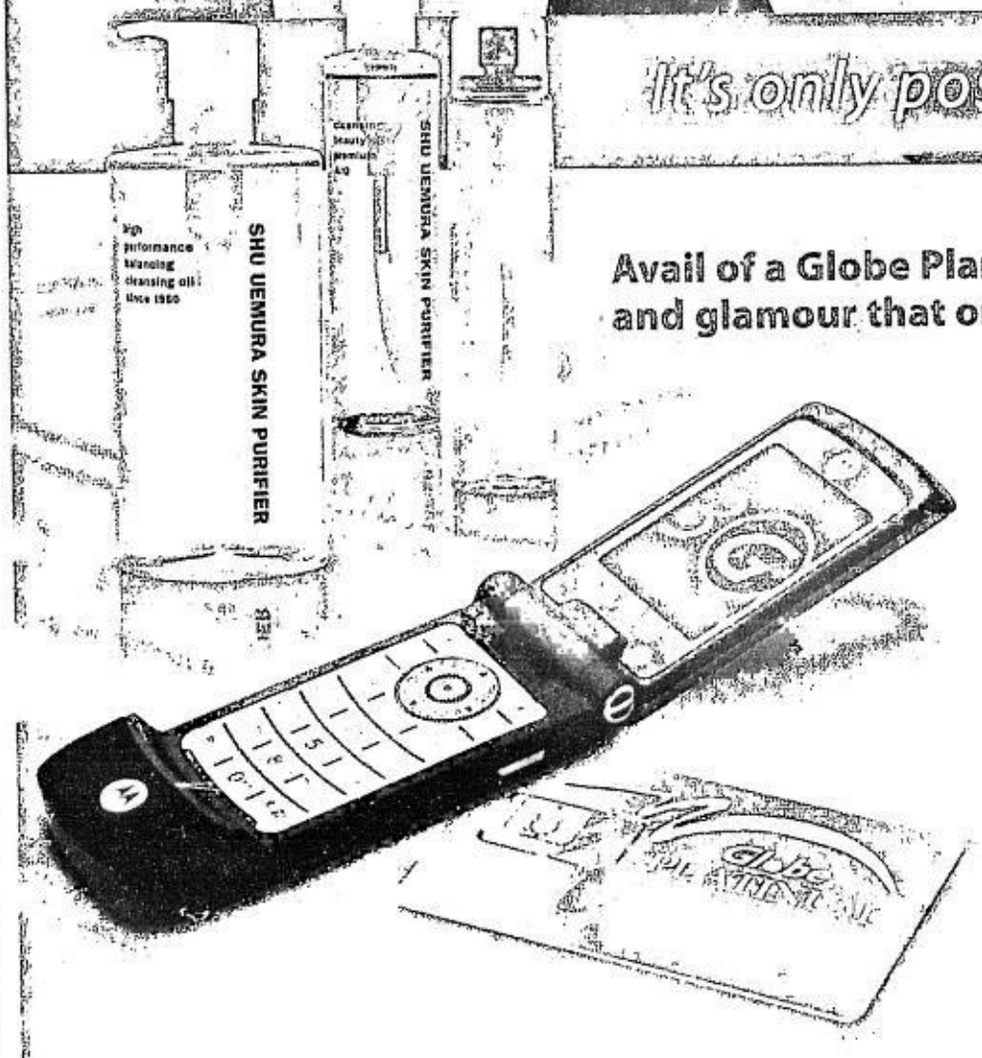
All Stars and their quest to defend their title page C2

Human hair exhibit, a young rock act and more page C4

"I love the privileges that come with prestige and beauty"

Makeup by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura

It's only possible for a select few.



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By Pam Pastor

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THE COUNTRY GLORY.
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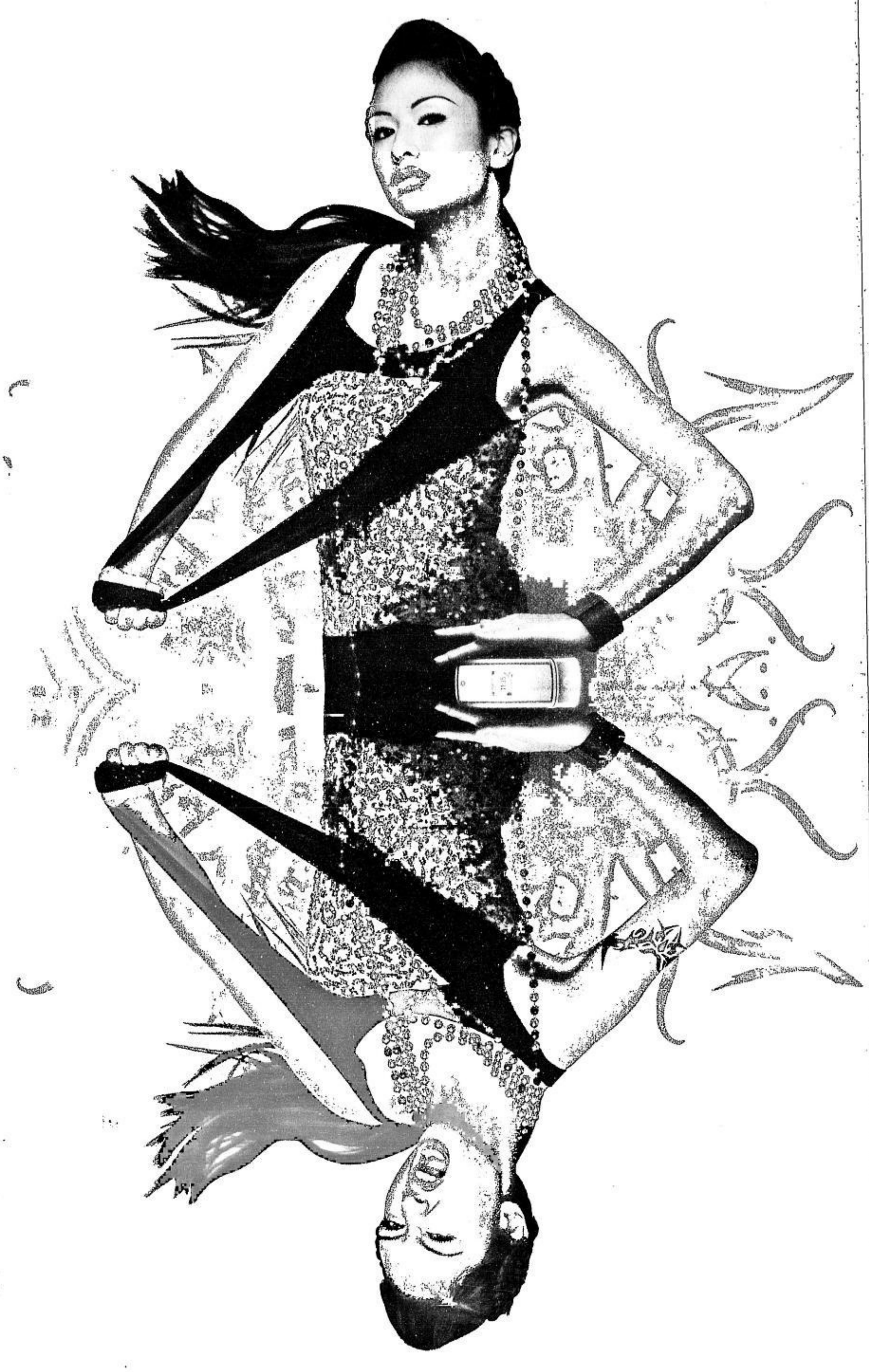
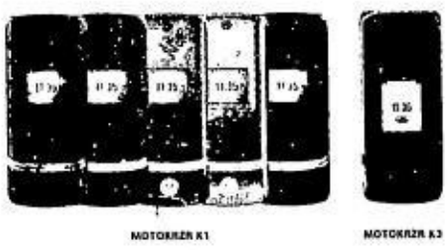


REFLECT YOUR KRZR STYLE



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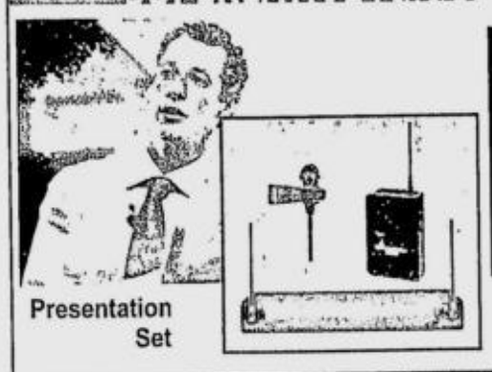

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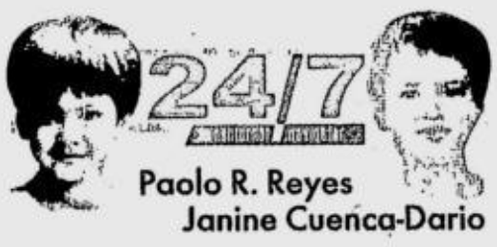
Short Cuts



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

THEY SAY THAT BEHIND EVERY great artist is a muse. Da Vinci had his mysterious Mona Lisa, John Lennon had Yoko Ono, and Woody Allen had both Manhattan and Mia Farrow. But mix media artist Christina Dy has approximately 100,000 of them, all found within a cramped, 20-inch circumferential area.

In "Curtains Matching Carpet," her ongoing exhibit at Silverlens Gallery (2320 Pasong Tamo Ext., Yupangco Building, Makati, phone: 816-00440), Dy displays large-scale prints and photographs of her favorite subject: human hair.

"I love the texture, the way light bounces off it, how it falls after a shower, how the wind blows it," shares Dy, who learned to cut hair two years ago and has been obsessed ever since. "When drawn, magnified, in sizes bigger than me, even without the face, even when it doesn't look like hair anymore, there's something in the lines and shadows that's seductive."

This afternoon, from 2 to 5 p.m., the artist invites the public to drop by her humble exhibit, have their hair photographed, and perhaps even get a free haircut. We cannot guarantee the results, but you can at least take consolation in the fact that your locks—oily, overprocessed or otherwise—will be immortalized forever.

Kastigo

They have been hailed as "future of Pinoy Rock" by former Wolfgang drummer Wolf Gemora, who discovered them at indie haven Purple Haze one fateful night. After making the rounds in university campuses and local bars, Kastigo—one of today's most promising young rock acts—is ready for the big leagues. On Thursday, Aug. 2, the band will launch their debut album, "Our Daily Riot," at Absinth in Greenbelt 3. Call 0920-8908502 or visit bandangkastigo.multiply.com.

More Super! 24/7 events:

July 28, Saturday

Up Dharma Down & Radioactive Sago Project at Mag:net Café (High Street); Myra Beltran: Frida Facing the Mirror at Instituto Cervantes; Deep Down & Discofied w/ DJs Karl Ty & Marie Garcia at Fiamma; House of Soul w/ DJs Benjo Marquez & Jason Soong at Nuvo; Siesta w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Rouge w/ DJ Red-I & Soul Flowa at M Café ; BluRoom at Martinis Bar; Sexy Saturdays at Absinth; DJs Jon Herrera & Tolo Bote at Temple; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; House Music at Mezze; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Arriba at Café Havana Malate; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Family Affair at Merk's; Noel Cabangon at 70s Bistro

July 29, Sunday

Wawi Navarroza: Abducted at Insituto Cervantes; Amorsolo retrospective at UP Vargas Museum; Terry Berkowitz: Malaya Lolas at CCP Main Gallery; Nuevo Ritmo at Café Havana Greenbelt; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Café

July 30, Monday

Happy Mondays w/ Borgy Manotoc at Embassy Cuisine; BluRoom at Martinis Bar; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati; Chemical Underground at Absinth; Retro Nights at Azzurro Linden Suites; Family Affair at Merk's

July 31, Tuesday

Play Tuesdays feat. Jason Soong at Embassy Club; Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; SPIT at Mag:net Café (High Street); Electronica Night at Fiamma; 80s & 90s Night w/ DJ Jeff at Temple; Jazz Night at Mezze; Sparkle w/ DJ Patch at Absinth; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Open Mic Night at Club O

Piano Nights at Azzurro Linden Suites; Aretha & Souled Out at Merk's

Aug. 1, Wednesday

Retro Classics at Warehouse 135; House of Soul w/ DJs Benjo Marquez & Jason Soong at Fez; W Wednesdays w/ DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Lush: Smooth Rn'B at Fiamma; Julianne at 70s Bistro; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Mishmash at Absinth; 90s Night at Coquina; Live Rock Bands at Temple; DJs Kimozave & Chrismyx at Prince of Jaipur; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Merk & Friends at Merk's

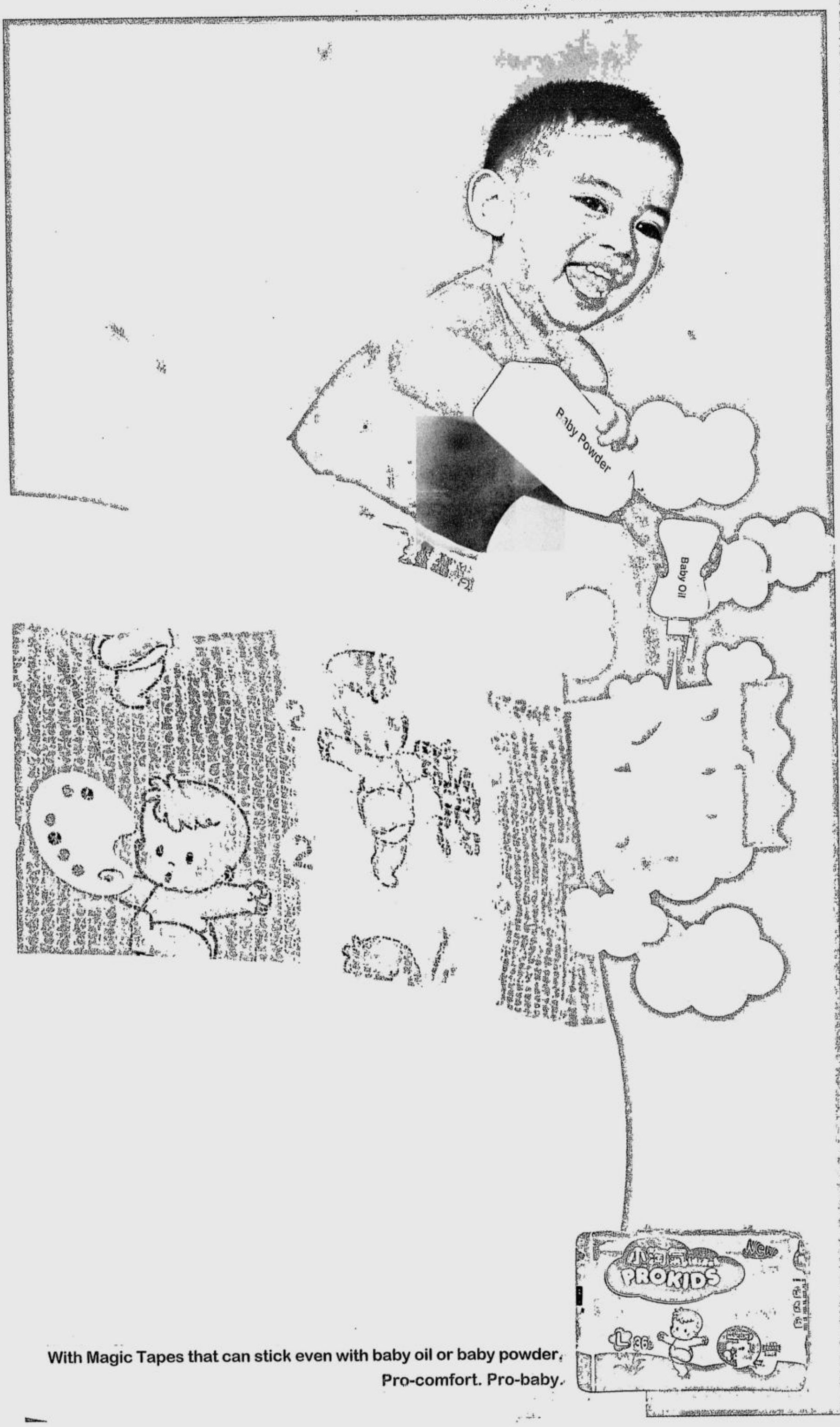
Aug. 2, Thursday

Kastigo album launch at Absinth; Fabric: Fashion Thursdays feat. Rodriguez de Alba at Piedra; Flow Thursdays w/ Paolo Cabalfin at Embassy Cuisine; Latin Night w/ Tribo Manila at Mezze ; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt; Backtrack Thursdays at Club O; Radio Coquina at Coquina; Open Mic Night at Azzurro Linden Suites; World's Fastest Open Bar at Bed; Johnoy & Kakoy at 70s Bistro; The Groove at Merk's

Aug. 3, Friday

Mozzie at The Room Upstairs; Session Road at 70s Bistro; Officemate Night at Bed; The Cascades: Live! at Aliw Theater; House of Soul w/ DJ Jason Soong at Alchemy; Diskoteca Deluxe at Warehouse 135; Chill by the Bay at SM Mall of Asia; FunkFry at Mezze; Sala Ibiza w/ DJ Karl Ty at Nuvo; Elektro Disko w/ DJ Adrian Cuenca & Ms BadKiss at M Café; DJs Mark Naval & Owens Sun at Embassy Club; Decadance w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; House Sessions at Fiamma; DJ David Ardiente at Coquina; MILF: Mom I Love Fridays! at Absinth; Sparkling Electro Beats w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Jive Fridays at Temple; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Route 70 at Merk's

Schedules may change without prior notice. For a complete listing of events, text 24/7 GIGS through your mobile phone and send to 2851 (Globe) and 2951 (Smart). Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com & mag24_7@yahoo.com. Vote now for the 24/7 Nocturnal Awards 2007! Log on to www.mag24-7.com/awards for details.



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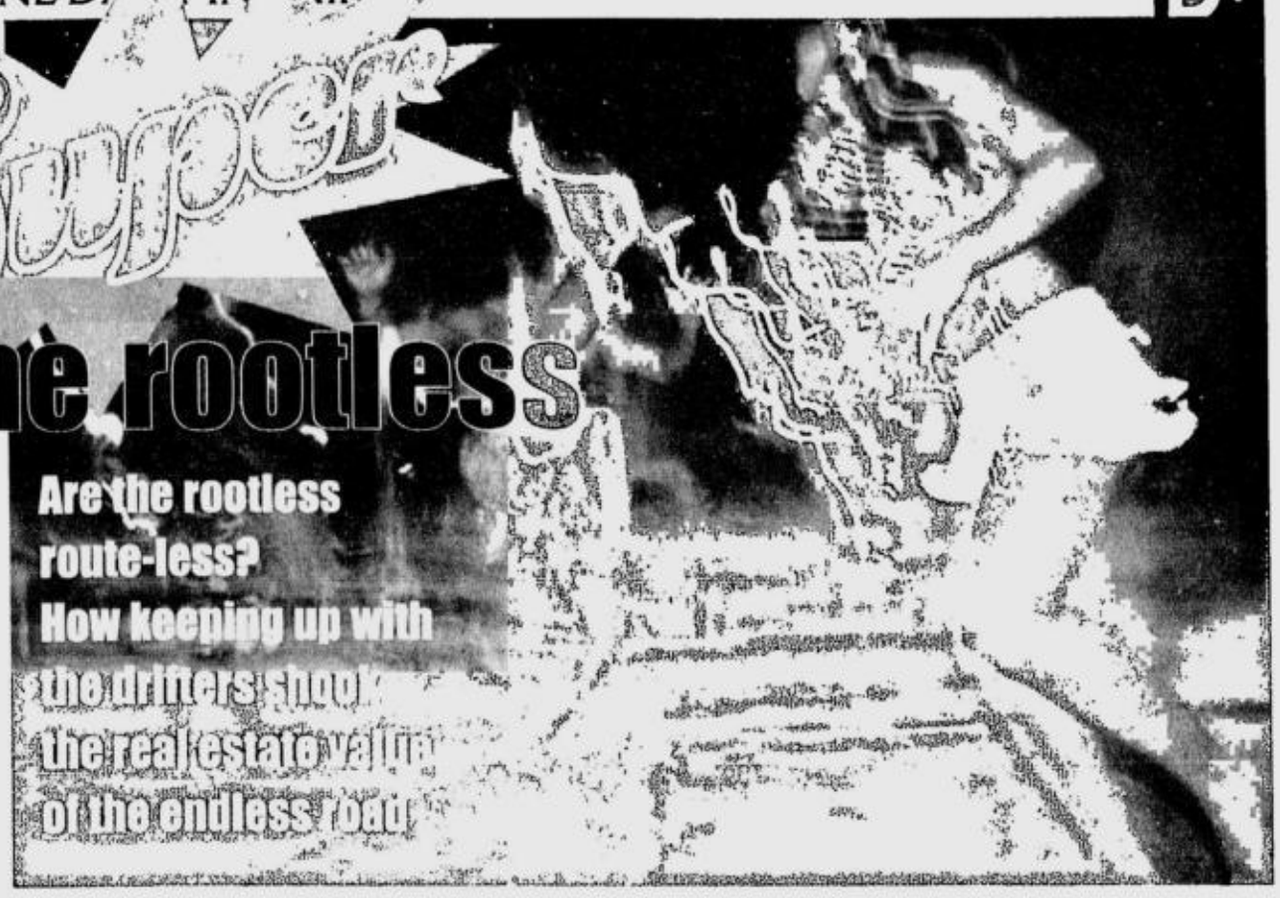
The young and the rootless



Are the rootless route-less? How keeping up with the drifters shook the real estate value of the endless road

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

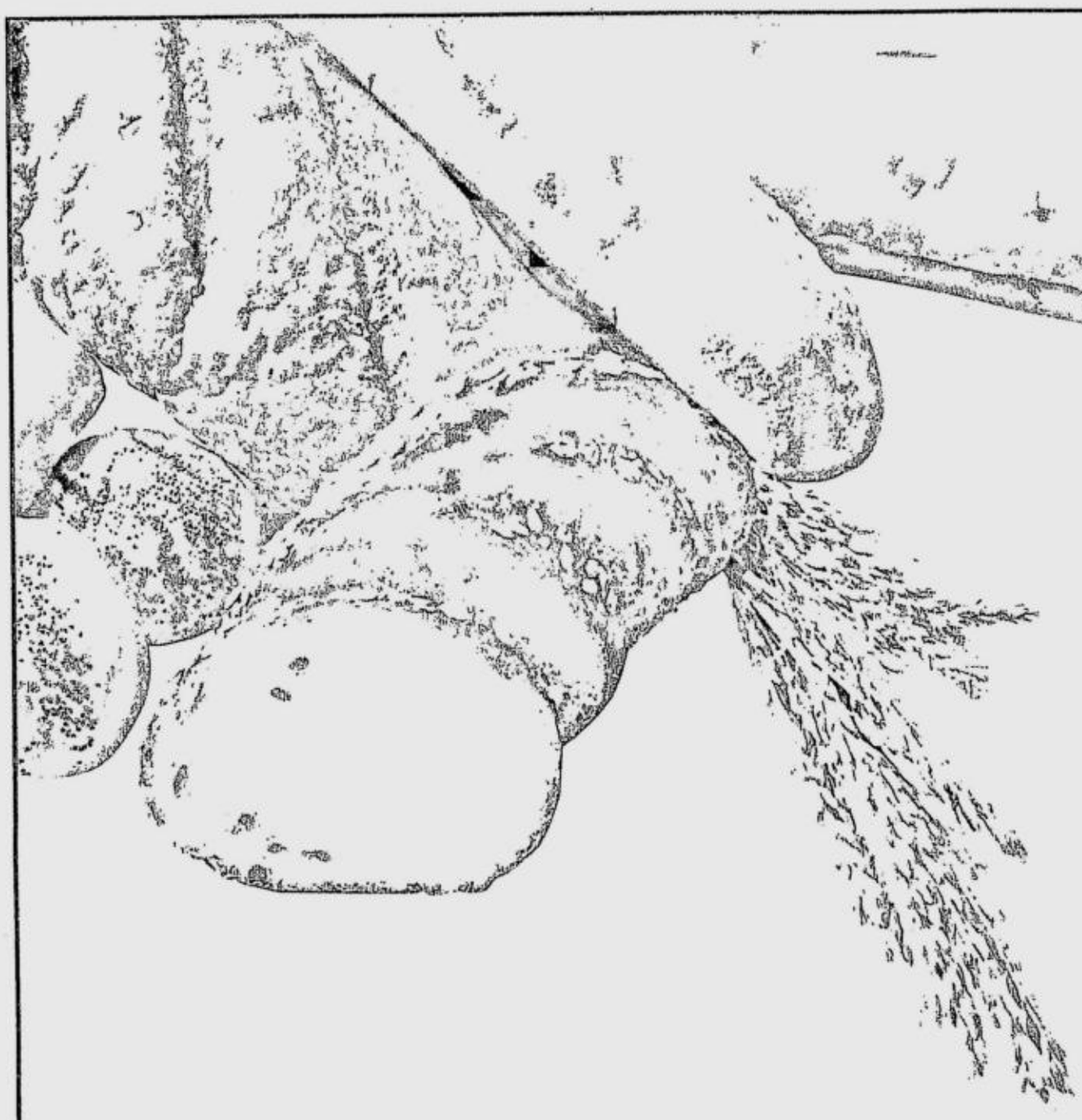
TRUTH TO TELL, I USED TO ENVY them.

They were among the rare subcategory of friends who, like modern incarnations of Cain, found themselves wandering the earth. In the past they were called gypsies and vagabonds, today this nomadic set was baptized by Pico Iyer as the Nowhereians who call everywhere home, and yet seem to spend the rest of their lives searching for it.

I've always been fascinated by these young drifters if only because their existence was almost mythical. Befriending them of course bespoke of a mercurial lifestyle as well, once upon a time. For you wouldn't catch a drifter if you weren't carried away by the same current.

I envied them because I once fancied being just as rootless. I wanted to be that rolling stone that gathered no moss, blessed with

THE YOUNG/ D3



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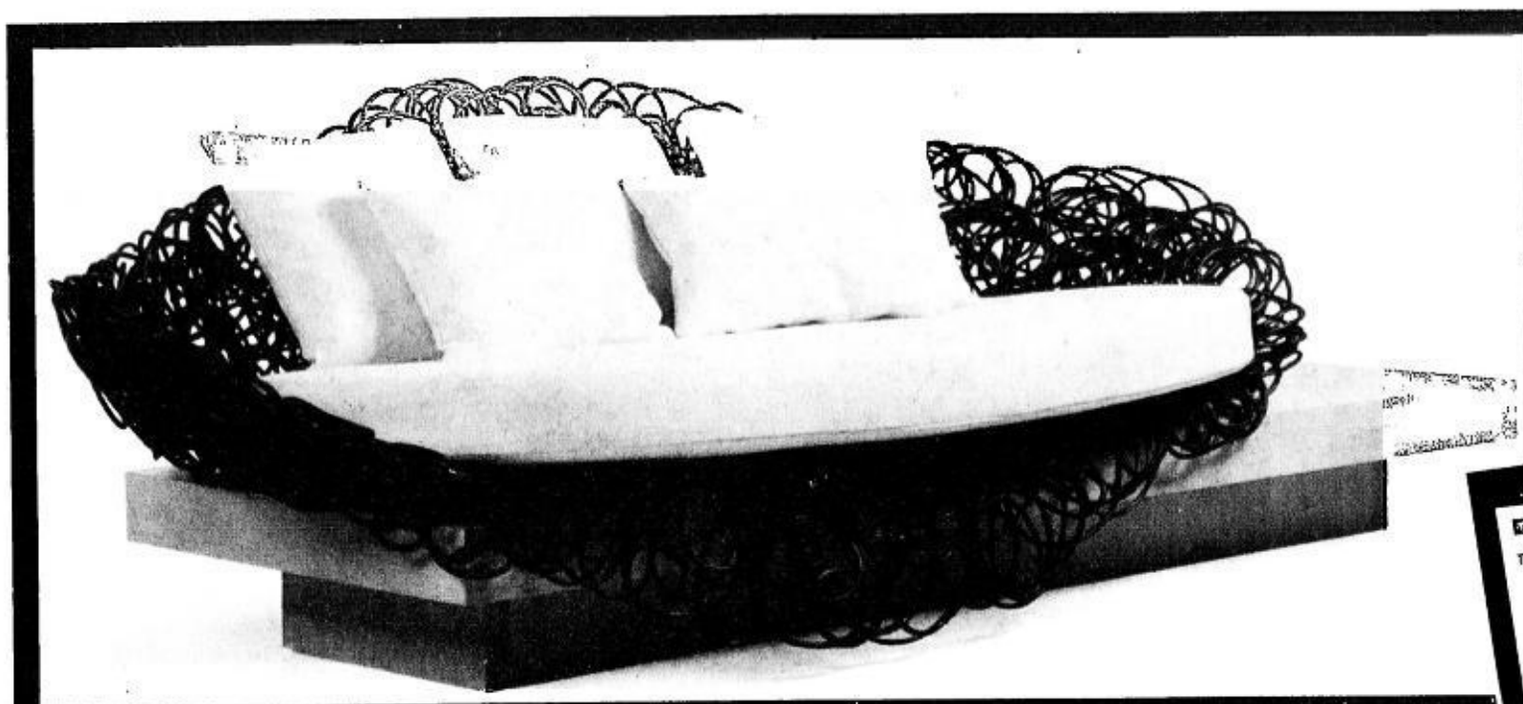
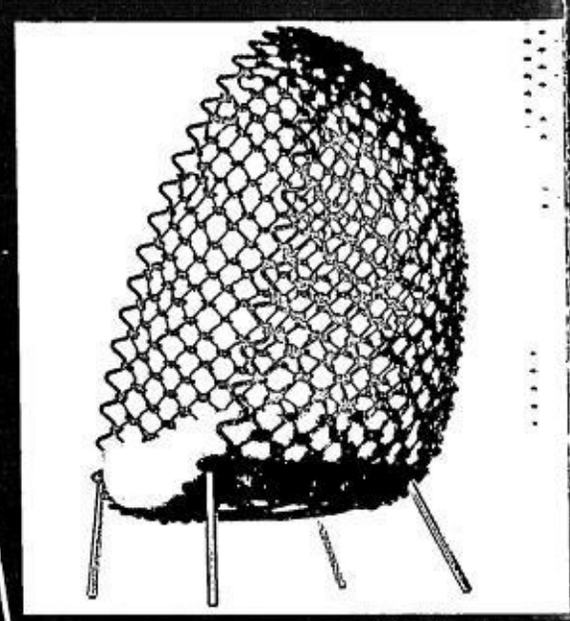


Kenneth Cobonpue Is bringing simple back



Elementary design

By James Gabrillo

HIS WORKS ARE DISARMINGLY SIMPLE. Yet they never fail to push the medium a little bit further.

Kenneth Cobonpue's making waves globally and there's no stopping his rise to the top. His collections never fail to steal the spotlight, whether he's showing them in Paris, Shanghai, or here in the Philippines. You probably first heard his name when Brad Pitt bought Cobonpue's pieces, and when the Ocean's 13 guys used his furniture as part of the sets in the film.

In this Super! interview, world-renowned designer Kenneth talks about learning to laugh at his own work, finding beauty in the ordinary, and heads of state turning into schoolboys at the sight of his pieces.

What is the one thing that people don't know about you?

That I applied for the UP Fine Arts Program in Diliman and failed the entrance examinations because I couldn't draw well enough.

When did you know that you wanted to go into design?

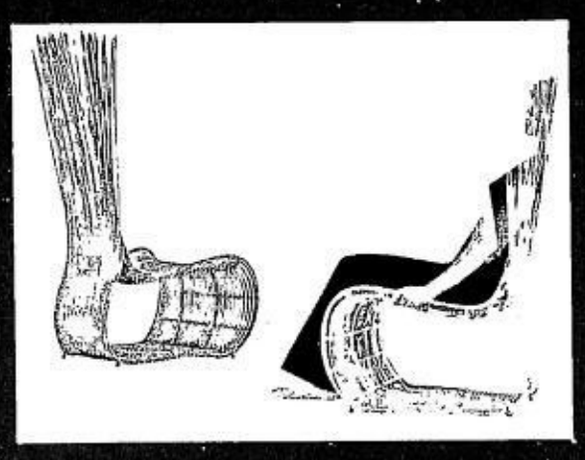
I knew I wanted to go into design when I was drawing instead of listening during Accounting 11 class at UP Diliman.

How did your experiences in school influence you as a design professional?

The Pratt Industrial Design program, during my time, was conceptual and form-oriented; different from the commercial and technical approach taken by most schools today. It worked very well for me because I could not have adopted industrial manufacturing processes in the Philippines where most production is craft-based. The visual training in form and space coupled with conceptual thinking allowed me to apply my education to everything I do here.

Talk about your work. What differentiates your work from the other design professionals?

I try to keep my work as pure and simple as possible. I don't believe in decoration or embellishment. Every visual element in my work has to be there for a reason. I think most designers find it hard to understand that restraint is the toughest discipline one has to learn when creating something. Dieter Rams, one of the most influential industrial designers of the late 20th century, said that "Good design is as little design as possible." How true.



What projects are your most proud of and why?

I am excited by all my projects which have little to do with furniture like the architectural interiors of the Z Bar in Cebu; the experiments we are doing to create alternative transportation; and the odd commissions I occasionally get to design trophies and spaces.

What do you hope people think or feel when they see your work?

Seeing adults become like children again in front of my work gives me a fulfillment that's out of this world. I outfitted the entire Ministers Lounge at the recent Asean meeting in Cebu. This was an exclusive place where the heads of state retreated to between meetings. Here was a space where prime ministers and presidents became like schoolboys again. They were gushing, laughing, trying out everything, and taking things apart to see how everything worked. Objects around us should still have the power to make us happy.

Who are your major influences?

Life is a series of experiences and I learned something from everyone I have had the chance to work with. Budji Layug and my fellow members of Movement 8 had the biggest influence on my career. We dreamed, worked and dared to challenge every prejudice the world had about Filipino design. Over the years, I have personally worked with several designers like Marcel Wanders and Ross Lovegrove. Marcel taught me how to laugh at my own work and Ross showed me the value of what I was doing.

What inspires you? What fuels your passion to create?

The challenge of every designer is to find the beauty in the ordinary. Cebu and the islands have always been an inspiration for my designs because I live and work here. The desire to make something new and different in the world inspires me to create.

What about your current position do you like and dislike?

I enjoy the designing part of my work, but I have to contend with the realities of business, production, economy and our government. In my efforts to make Filipino culture global, I become an informal ambassador of the country. But it's tough to always wear a smile when you know that things in our country are not going right.

What are your most memorable experiences as a designer?

I have so many memorable experiences as a designer but the best ones had to be with my fellow designers from Movement 8. I remember going to international furniture exhibitions in the 80s and 90s as a young student with my mom. The Philippine booth was always located at some faraway hall beside a bathroom. You needed a map to find it. That's how esteemed the show organizers viewed the Filipino furniture industry. Then Movement 8 was formed. It was the Philippines' new weapon. We showed the world the best of Filipino design in a fresh, stylized and modern setting successively in Valencia, Milan and Paris. Suddenly, everyone was raving about the country. Now people

Cobon ... who?

Wallpaper magazine recently nominated Kenneth Cobonpue as one of the icons of contemporary design along with such world luminaries as Philippe Starck and Antonio Citterio.

Kenneth studied Industrial Design at Pratt Institute in New York. While completing his degree, he apprenticed for a leather and wood workshop near Florence, Italy. In 1994, he studied Furniture Marketing and Production at the Export Akademie Baden-Wurttemberg in Germany under a private and state scholarship program, and subsequently worked in Bielefeld and Munich.

He returned home to Cebu, Philippines in 1996, to manage Interior Crafts of the Islands Inc., a furniture design and manufacturing company founded in 1972 by Kenneth's mother Betty Cobonpue, a designer famous for creating new techniques in working with rattan. Discovering that modern design could have a new face using natural fibers and materials as the medium, he slowly created the pieces which form the collection today. Integrating locally sourced organic materials with innovative handmade production techniques offered an alternative to the Western definition of modern design.

(SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.KENNETHCOBONPUE.COM/)

Gang bang!

By Pepe Diokno

SHOT ON LOCATION IN TONDO, Manila, with real gang members as actors, the independent film "Tribu" is a look into society's dreary underbelly, complete with sex, drugs, and violence. The film, however, is also a tour of the explosive freestyle rap, gangsta hiphop scene that is the blood of Manila's side streets.

Super! sat down and spoke with the film's director, Jim Libiran.

There is drug use, murder, war—all these things within the duration of "Tribu." How much of this happens in reality in the way it does in the film?

A hundred percent. Or maybe 98 percent. The two percent being, it's a film; you can't do everything the way it is exactly—like, I didn't have enough budget for prosthetics. People can tell me that the shots in the film are shaky, that the lighting's dark, whatever, that's fine with me. There's just one thing they can't tell me: "You're film's so fake."

The actors in the film are really gangsters from Tondo, some of them have actually done these things—drugs, gangwars, even kill people—I just can't tell you who they are...

Everytime I'd do a scene, I'd ask them, "Does it look authentic?" And they'd give me suggestions—"Let's adjust this," or "Let's make this faster." With the fight scenes, instead of having one stunt coordinator, I had 15!

How was "Tribu" developed?

I did a documentary back in 2001 for ABS-CBN's "The Correspondents." It was about street gangs. That's when I discovered that every gang in Tondo has a rapper; that the gangs were deep into hiphop. I said, "This is 'Boys in the Hood!'"

Then, I studied under Armando Lao for a master's class in scriptwriting, and I told myself I wanted to do a Tondo movie. I made a short film called, "Pansit Canton," which is on YouTube, and is similar to "Tribu"—with the short, I tested with lighting, ("Tribu" was mostly shot with available light), the concept, the rap music, how these would all play.

You worked with non-actors, actual gangsters. How did you find them? And, how in the world did you get them to act?

I spread posters around Tondo that said, "Are you a gangster? Do you want to be an actor?" So, this film is my Starstruck, my Philippine Idol for Tondo.

52, from six different gangs, auditioned—all of them angry at each other. I said, "Let's get them all, and put them through an acting workshop," and then we waited for someone to emerge—we took into consideration the way they look, and we had them do audition tapes. With acting, there were some that really shined. Halfway through the workshop, we cast the characters. We had workshops on weekends for a month.

Now, these gang members were enemies. On our first day of workshops, they came armed. We always had to pat them down. We had our workshops in a territory that was dangerous for some of the gang members; it was at a slaughterhouse in Tondo, there was a gym we converted into a workshop venue.

At first they didn't trust each other, there was a lot of backtalk, stuff like that. And then we started doing self-exploration exercises—life maps, etc., and they started opening up. "Hey, your parents are separated, mine are too,"—issues like that.

Then, I was surprised, they all became textmates! Since the workshops were on weekends, I'd get texts from them on a Monday asking me if there were more workshops. They'd go, "We wish there were workshops everyday."

So yeah, they're gang members. They can be dangerous if they want to. But they're still kids, and they're like us. They want friends, they want respect; they're not hardened criminals, even if they do criminal things.

I take it that the gang members were the least of your complications?

Yeah. At one point during the workshops, I became desperate for funds. The 500,000 pesos from Cinemalaya is a seed fund, and it is a lot of help, but it isn't enough to make a feature film. My total budget for "Tribu" is 1.7 million. I didn't know where I'd get the 1.2 million. There were times I'd be crying in the middle of the night. It was tempting to back out at that point, and I'd tell my wife

(who is also the producer of "Tribu"), that it'd be easy to back out, we still had P250,000.

We were really running out of money. We couldn't find other producers. The material is so violent; we couldn't find sponsors—no product would want to be associated with Tondo and gangs. Even the hiphop brands—I mean, they were interested in donating products, but they didn't want to be sponsors of the film.

I had to tell the cast. We went in a huddle; we called this the Tondo Talk. I was the head gansta—there were six gangs, and they wouldn't choose a leader, so I had to be their leader. I told them the truth, that money was scarce.

They said, "This is the best thing that has happened to us; one of the most meaningful. Before this we didn't have anything to do. If we stop this, then all this would have been for nothing. How much more do we need?"

I got scared, cause I didn't know what they'd do.

After that, money started coming in little by little. People wanted to see us continue.

Who were these people?

The lords of Tondo. All the lords of Tondo. They were observing us, and they were quite happy with what was happening. They saw themselves in the young gangsters we were working with. They saw hope. Some of them donated money, some of them helped us cut costs. With all that help, we were able to continue. Eyes closed. I was still always on the verge of selling my car, just in case.

Among the cast, or the Tondo community, was there any jealousy around the guys who were stars of the film?

There is now. The film's out, word's spreading. But my lead starts still live in Tondo. A lot of people get jealous of them. A week ago, one of my actors was just hanging out with his homeboys, and somebody took a shot at him with a homemade shotgun. That's the kind of life they have.

Is that, in a way, a message of the film? That one can't easily break away from the cycle of violence?

I don't know what the message is. The film is what it is; you take what you see. But I want all the gangsters to see it. It's a mirror that I'm holding up to them. "This is what will happen to you."

Is it also a mirror you're holding up to society in general?

Yeah. You clean your living room but you don't clean your toilet. What kind of people are you?

What do you say to those who believe that your depiction of Tondo gangs isn't the kind of image filmmakers should be putting out?

I'm a journalist by profession, I don't believe in putting cosmetics on what is happening.

To people who say that this isn't the kind of Philippines we should be portraying, I say, f*** you. If you don't want these things to be seen by other people, then these things must not exist in society.

Would you rather I do a film about Filipino zombies? "Land of the Dead"?

No, f*** you.

Do you separate yourself from the subjects you cover? How do you sleep well knowing about the situations these gangsters, for example, are in?

I sleep at night, and then the phone rings—this happened three days ago—it's one of the guys, and he goes, "Direk, I'm in jail. The police picked us up," it was for vagrancy, just vagrancy. They were going to the

birthday party of a rapper, and they r a policeman who asked them for the They didn't have IDs, so they went r jail. So, in the middle of the night, I them.

These are things I do as a journalist have a bond with these people.

I'm not out to change the world world must change itself. If you see th and you see what's happening, and y lieve our story, and you want to do thing, then do it. Now.

Because a few nights ago, somebod a shoot at one of the guys you see in th Three nights from now, I don't know guy who took that shot might succeed.

What's behind your fascination Pinoy hiphop? It's probably one most underdeveloped or underrate res in the local music landscape...

You have these Filipino rappers novelty s***. But in the film is real rap ghetto rap. There is a scene in the where the lead child raps—that was s neous.

All these rap groups in Tondo, slums, they have their own albums th record themselves and pass around should listen to their lyrics—their lyr loaded, and they will hit you in the They sell their CDs for the price of a CD—35 pesos, 50 pesos, depending o big they are in Tondo. They also sell rates—these groups are already being ed.

They really aren't earning anythin rap is alive.

And, not just in Tondo. When Popon dero came here for the MTV Reggae F

GAN

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The young and the rootless

From page D1

that kind of freedom to go from place to place, city to city, arriving and departing wealthier each time with experiences that would trump any desk job. I believed that ultimate freedom was not being attached to material things (or material people). It didn't matter if I was a fruit-picker or a grape-stomper or a bartending, English translating street performer, I just wanted to get enough to live on and to keep moving. Imagination had bloated those romantic notions. Initiative had fueled those adventures. Idealism had called me back home. But not without the vestiges of those journeys—friends who became the living postcards of those far flung places.

They even *sounded* mythical. Among them: a Scandinavian classmate I fondly called "Viking" as he remained true to his exploratory heritage, and by good fortune was able to construct a lucrative career living out of a suitcase and a laptop. There's the insanely wealthy, half-blood Filipino-Swiss boy I once met on a sultry beach, who's now on a long-time field trip around the globe with the end nowhere in sight. Then there's the wandering *"bohemio"* from Tijuana, who realized early on that his good looks and sharp nose were his passport to the big cities of the world, except now he felt too displaced each time he went back to his hometown. I had met each of them in strange and separate occasions, very much conscious of the finite time of our companionship. Hellos and goodbyes were said in transitory states, at airport terminals or bus stations upon arrival, or from inside airplanes about to take off, with the few minutes allowed by a cell phone call. The irony was that our friendships were strengthened by their very limitations.

Vagabonding

You can imagine of course, that catching up with them was so unlike the regular get-togethers with the usual suspects for beers after work.

There was always something so poetic about our blue moon, catch-up-on-life reunions with the drifters, held in small cafés, beachside bars or bookstores. Even the way they'd literally "appear" back in my life would be as unscheduled and spontaneous as the blowing winds or unpredictable tides. There was a surreal quality about those moments for it always seemed as if we were removed from real time and physical space. Perhaps it was because our conversations were spared of the usual daily gossip and preoccupations that small, fenced-in societies tended to wrap themselves up in, and were therefore exempt from the usual niceties. None of that "your brother-who-went-to-school-with-my-third-cousin-is now her-boyfriend" kind of small town tracing.

Most of all, those encounters felt surreal because there was always an uncertainty about when and where we'd meet again, or whether we would at all.

They were like sailors who'd tell me that the world wasn't flat because they did not fall off the edge. They told me about the emerging trends in the world out there if I couldn't find out for myself. "Listen to this gypsy punk music I discovered in Condessa." "I heard this north African electronica that was playing in Sirena in Maresias last week." "I saved this flyer in Kalimantan." It didn't matter if I wasn't sure where exactly those places were, the more exotic-sounding, the better!

Surface friction

Most recently, one of those drifters suddenly appeared again, in between the penciled-in realities of appointments and deadlines. Big cups of steaming coffee were in order, for there were many months of stories that needed to be covered. This time however, there was something very different about the stories, or the way those stories were told. My excitement to hear them was tempered by a peculiar mood that did not usually color traveler's tales. At once I realized what it was: numbness. It was a kind of bored, jaded tone, an almost desperate search for meaning that tinged the last e-mail of my *bohemio amigo* who was now in Shanghai. In his own words, "When I'm here I can't stay long. When I'm there, I want to come back. Maybe I don't belong anywhere."

He was losing surface friction. I remembered the words from a Newsweek essay entitled "Living at Jet Speed," where I first encountered the definition of "surface friction" as anything that tied one to a place. "The danger of a high-velocity life is that some of the strictures of reality begin to fade away," wrote author Joshua Ramo. "What is really disappearing is the sense of connectedness to anything other than what you can take with you when you travel. And those things are your ideas, your dreams, your hopes and your senses."

Bright lights

So why keep moving so much then? Is this the mark of the mythical nomad, the mark of Cain who cannot cultivate and reap? It is like the need for constant motion in the novel, "Bright Lights, Big City," where the purpose of movement is fueled by a fear of missing out in some other party happening in another club. No one ever arrives because there is always a better place than where you are at the moment, at least in your mind. Take that restlessness to a much bigger scale—instead of clubs and parties, they're cities and countries. The perfect place, like the perfect circle, exists only in the mind. Thus, the "right place" is the state of transit.

The call of the road is given meaning by its finiteness. It is still the search for home. Beyond giving us identity, home is where we direct our stories to, where reside the people who love us most, and by listening to us affirm the worth of our experiences. Maybe that's what these drifters had seen in me: a piece of home that anchored them; someone to remind them that by virtue of our friendship, they weren't rootless fugitives, but true citizens of the world.

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Six degrees of irritation

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

WITHIN MOMENTS I WAS TOtally cheesed off and all it took was a single word: "batch." Like, "*Ka*-batch *mo ba si* ... ?" Or, "Yeah, I went to school with her and she came two batches after me." Or, "*Ah, talaga*? Batch 2003 (for example) *ka? Kilala mo yung* friend *ko na si*...?" Loser.

Okay, let me clarify. It's probably not the word per se that I deem rail-worthy, though the rest of the planet uses the more official term "class of." Rather, it's the narrow-mindedness that it represents. I really find it problematic when Pinoys use this whole "batch" thing as an icebreaker and suddenly stop there.

Throughout my career as a guy who whines about stuff, I've observed that there are a lot of people in this country who, on your first-ever meeting, proceed to trace your entire background without your consent. You know, they establish that they know the girlfriend of your classmate's seatmate who was in the same carpool as the older brother of your bible study buddy whose dad had the same professor as his dad during the dark days of the Edsa revolution.

(And then there are also those annoying peeps who like tracing Pinoy blood in Hollywood celebrities—another thesis altogether.) Like, you're supposed to find that unnecessary factoid impressive.

This type of superficial name-dropping may work in a barangay-like setting such as the Philippines. But given that we now move in borderless, Benettonesque times, such a small-town mentality loses its inherent value. (I mean, I went to school, too, and it never occurred to me to limit my circle of friends to those who were born in the same year, got the same degree, or came from the same country.) Thinking in "batches" is simply not global and progressive, which is probably why I don't find the expression appealing at all. It's, like, so "Star Circle."

Small world phenomenon

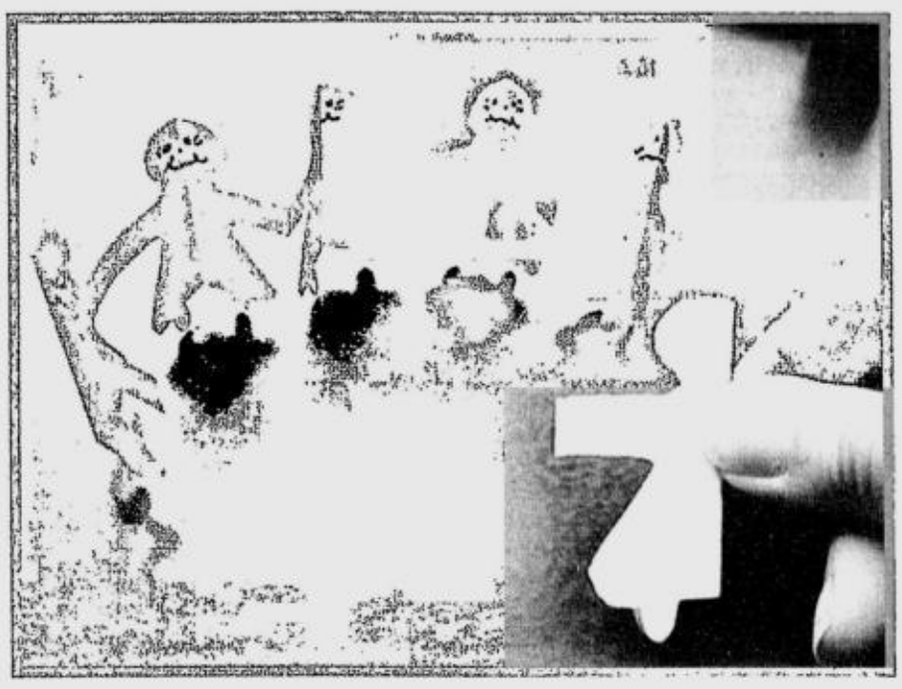
In pop psychology, there's this thing called the small world phenomenon. Synonymous with six degrees of separation, this idea broaches the possibility that each one of us is no more than six steps away from the next person on Earth, provided we find the right links.

The concept of interconnectedness is nothing new. In fact, a Hungarian author named Frigyes Karinthy toyed around with the theory that the world was shrinking due to technological advances in communications and travel as early as 1929. Decades later, in 1967, a Harvard University researcher, Stanley Milgram, apparently mirrored Karinthy's brainchild and conducted more experiments to try and solve the small world problem. He eventually found out that on average, Americans seemed to be connected by approximately six friendship links. Hence, the term.

Networkaholics

Both Karinthy and Milgram are often attributed as the originators of the Six Degrees web, so can they also be the unwitting inventors of today's social networks? A quick Wiki reveals, "No longer limited strictly to academic or philosophical thinking, the notion of Six Degrees recently has become influential throughout popular culture. Further advances in communication technology—and particularly the Internet—have drawn great attention to social networks and human interconnectedness."

Unfortunately for us, the presence of a gazillion social networking sites seems to have diluted the significance of social networking instead of improving its cultural worth. At one point or another, my inbox has been filled with invitations to sign up for old stand-bys like MySpace and Friendster, or join blinding new strains such as Facebook and LinkedIn. And guess what? I always hit the delete button.



It was bound to happen sooner or later: Are social networkaholics the new social climbers?

See, why would I want to connect with people with hundreds or thousands of connections, most of which are questionable anyway? "Friendsters" like that are worthless and they clearly can't vouch for me professionally and more so, personally. (The law of diminishing returns is relevant in this case, too: Beyond a set number of buddies, the value of each additional buddy decreases.) How ironic-technology is supposed to expand our world but in a way, it has made everything even more chaotic and claustrophobic.

Virtual social climbing?

In a past article, Psychology Today's Marina Krakovsky doubted that online social networking offers a better way to make contacts. She cited Google's then-new-ish Orkut.com (pronounced as "Or-coochie," because it's Portuguese). "At Orkut.com, the open-door policy is replaced by a velvet-rope approach: Only those who have been invited can join. Supposedly, Orkut will provide higher-quality contacts, screening out the e-rabble that clogs up many online communities," she wrote.

Orkut.com may have been more exclusive than most networking sites at the time, but it still overlooked a vital part of genuine networking—vouching for someone who is introduced. "While the sites may speed up connections, the ease of adding 'friends' to your online circle makes the quality of those links dubious," continued Krakovsky.

"The genre is also rife with exploitation and fraud. Some Friendster members claim tens of thousands of 'friends'; others devise fake profiles like 'Pure Evil.'" For every person who seriously believes that he or she can make lasting friends online, there are certainly dozens, even hundreds, more who treat it merely as a game. That's the sad reality in this connected age.

Six degrees of irritation

The 1993 film "Six Degrees of Separation" featured Will Smith as Paul, a fast-talking young man who randomly befriends an upper-crust Manhattan couple and invades their personal bubble, while claiming to be both Sidney Poitier's son and a classmate of their Harvard-enrolled kids. He makes these pedigree parents take a good hard look at themselves and the relationship they have with each other and their children.

In one scene, Paul says, "I believe the imagination is the passport that we create to help take us into the real world. I believe the imagination is merely another phrase for what is most uniquely us." Somehow, social networkaholics—both virtual and otherwise—employ the same best-foot-forward, name-dropping charade. Clearly deceitful and highly methodical, Smith's social-climbing character was trying to pull off his own version of the "batch"-related conversation openers that I really hate.

After mulling over that movie, and navel-gazing on stuff I now know about the distinctly Pinoy "batch" mentality" and the downside of online networking, I've become a little bit wiser. To quote Will Smith's Paul one last time, "Every moment in life is a learning experience. Or what good is it, right?" The most fundamental thing I realized is that I'd rather make friends the old-school way: face-to-face, maybe over a beer or a shared travel experience. Better still, I think I'll just stick to friends I've learned to trust over time, thank you very much. They may not number in the tens of thousands but quality is what totally matters anyway.

Shop windows are the new canvas

POWER PLANT MALL AND ATENEO ART Gallery launch the Power of Art, window displays by Ateneo Art Awards past and present short-listed and winning Artists, for the whole month of August at stores in Power Plant Mall.

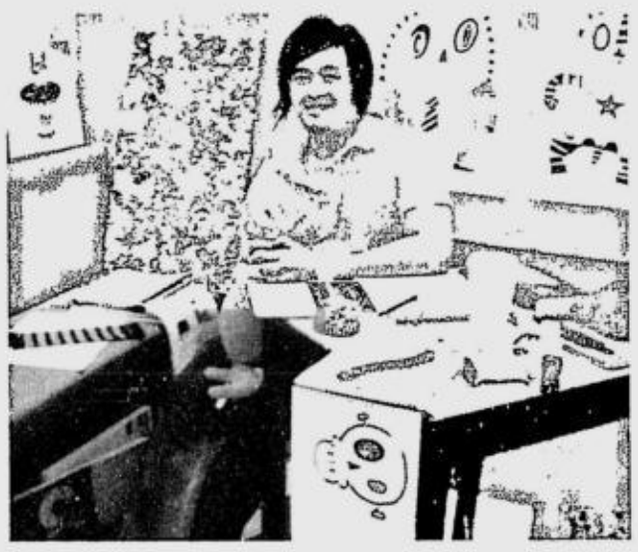
Figaro's Power of Art display is a collaboration of Christian Tamondong, short-listed for the 2004 Ateneo Art Awards, and Carlo Saavedra, short-listed for the 2005 Ateneo Art Awards. In Figaro's Smoking Lounge, the two artists join forces in an installation which recreates their studios. Paintings, drawings, palettes, toys, exhibition invitations and ripped-off pages from art magazines fill the space. Figaro's Power of Art display is already ongoing.

In shoe store T's window display, created by 2005 Ateneo Art Awards winner Annie Cabigting, the artist is inspired by Warhol's series of shoes, pairing these images with witty texts, which will change periodically throughout the month of August. The simple but creative display includes such text as "shoe bright, shoe light, first shoe I've seen tonight." The minimalist design enhances shoppers' appreciation of shoes in a perfect synthesis of art and retail.

K & Company's window display is by Racquel de Loyola, short-listed for this year's Ateneo Art Awards. The display, titled Cranium, is a head structure made from interlacing, twining, looping GI wire, suggestive of the cranium which is placed on top of headless mannequins. The framework of crisscrossed and parallel lines, a representation of how we are being monitored, looked upon and followed, is filled with flowers, adding a feminine touch of softness and delicacy in keeping with the look of K & Company.

More Power of Art window displays by Ateneo Art Awards short-listed and winning artists will follow during the month of August. The Power of Art project is in tandem with the 2007 Ateneo Art Awards.

The 2007 Ateneo Art Awards Winners will be announced on Aug. 8 at the Rockwell Tent, following an exhibition of the short-listed artists' works in the North Court, Power Plant Mall from Aug. 2 to 7.



Gang

From page D2

told me, "Jim, In Davao, 7-year-old kids—beggars—rap for food." I told Adolf Alix (director of "Kadin," a Cinemalaya film set in Batanes), "Next time, I think I'll shoot in Batanes." He tells me, "There are so many rappers in Batanes."

It's a sleeping giant. I know why hiphop hasn't exploded here yet—I'm talking about a true hiphop scene—there aren't any 30, 40, 50 year old businessmen who see its potential.

OPM is down, but underground hiphop is on the rise—because it has been embraced by children, especially in the ghettos. When I was listening to the Tondo rap in my car, I was on the road near a squatter community, and kids came up and sang along with the rap. That's when I said, holy ****, hiphop is so strong.

Pinoy hiphop is alive. And, I call it street poetry.

There are hundreds of kids doing the rap thing, writing verses in Filipino. At a time when Filipino is dying. Our next national poet maybe hiding in Tondo, a member of a gang. And who knows, the Manila mayor might kill him because of his facist politics—they may just kill our next national artist.

And that is tragic in a country like this. It doesn't matter if we have bad politicians. But a country without poets...

Catch the last regular Cinemalaya screening of "Tribu" tonight at 6:15 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704.

Kapag ang anak mo pabalik-balik ang ahhchoos—malamang, 'di na 'yan sipon!

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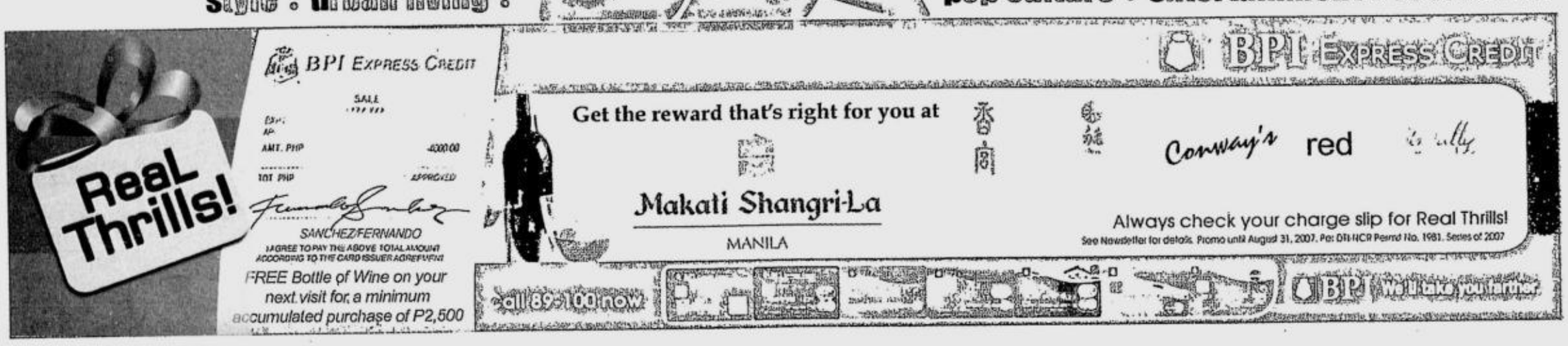
SYMPTOMS	COMMON COLDS	ALLERGIC RHINITIS
Frequent and Regular Sneezing	X	✓
Stuffy Nose	✓	✓
Runny Nose	✓	✓
Itchy Eyes	X	✓
Fever	✓	X
Sore Throat	✓	X
Nasal Discharge	✓	✓ Usually clear
Body aches and pains	✓	X
Triggers/ Causes	Viruses	Allergens (pollen, house dust mites, molds)
Duration	Lasts about a week	Lasts as long as the allergens are present
What your doctor may advice	Rest, fluids, pain relievers, decongestants	BENADRYL AH

Remember! Basta allergic rhinitis, Benadryl AH!

AHHHHHIa ng ahhchoos!



SUPERFRESH!

We call it a Super setup

Churning out great issues is no longer enough. Now we've decided to play cupid.

RECENT STUDIES have shown that nine out of 10 Filipinos wake up each day with one thought in their heads: "I need a freakin date."

Okay, we totally made that up.

What we didn't make up is the growing frustration and cynicism of people who just can't find good dates anymore.

And we thought, hey, there are so many smart, funny, witty, cool, hot, disturbingly cute and disarmingly good-looking Super readers out there. Why don't we play cupid (minus the stupid diapers) and set them up?

This is how it will work. You will answer Super's dating questionnaire. You will e-mail your answers to us. We will read them and try to find you a match. We will then plan a date that we think you will enjoy. And because we're extra nice, we'll even foot the bill (or ask our friends to do it). We will chronicle your first date in these pages. What you do after is up to you.

And because we love making fun of ourselves, we decided to play the role of lab rats and be the first to answer our dating questionnaire. We will not admit it but that was actually fun.

If you want Super to set you up, e-mail your answers to the dating questionnaire along with your photos and contact information to thesupersetup@gmail.com.

Pepe Diddy

Age: 19
Status: Single
Day job: Student
Night job: Student
What's your sign? Leo
Do you smoke or drink? I can do both at the same time!
Dietary preferences? Whole grains only. No trans fat, please.
Sexual preference: Straight

Are you...

...active or a couch potato? I'm an active couch potato.
...a brainiac or a maniac? Brainiac
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? Torpe-do
...on time or fashionably late? Just late.

Would you rather go for...

...local love or an international affair? Definitely a Brangelina.
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? A speed demon (ok, that was a look into my inner self)
...love or money? Money—I mean, love.

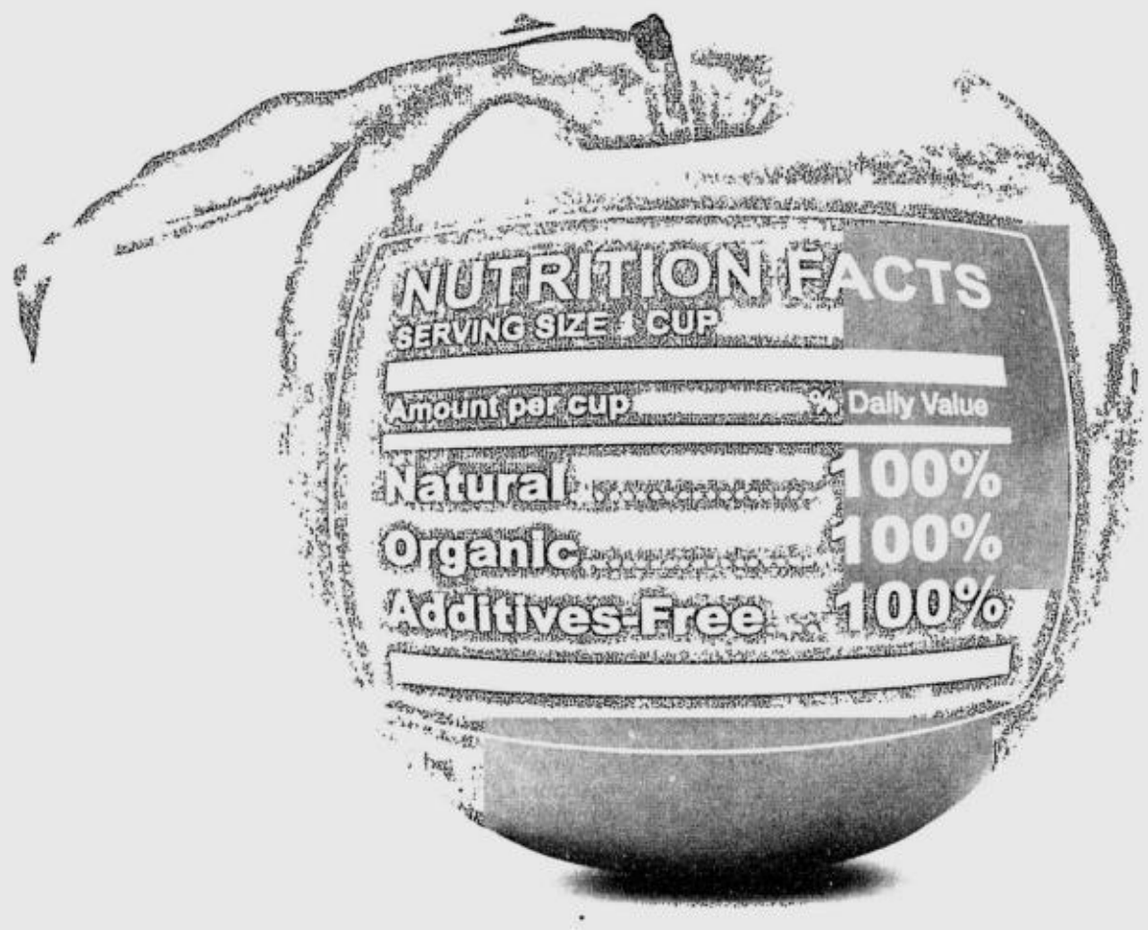
Dating history

Your last relationship ended because... My mommy fired my *yaya*.
Tell us about a date from hell: It was at a popular club, and I asked this model if she was alone... apparently, she had this really violent boyfriend. Next question.
Worst thing heard on a date: "Does it get any bigger?"
Best thing heard on a date: "Oh, I see it now."
Can you be friends with an ex? Yes. I keep track of all of my exes.
Best date ever: "Oh, I see it now."

Dating DNA

Five things you look for in a date: Eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin.
Do you believe in love at first sight? Totally.
Weirdest place to meet someone: A pitch dark room in one of 'em naughty group gatherings.
Do you believe in love online? No.
Non-negotiables and deal-breakers: Must not type like this: hOnEy, *tApOs kA nA*?
Best dating song ever: "Ain't No Other Man" by Christina Aguilera. Oh wait. Next question.
Would you kiss on the first date? Yes.
Best date escape action plan: Things usually go downhill after the kiss anyway... (Sobs.)
What do you want to do on a dream date? I would like it to be real, in the first place. I'm getting tired of dream dates.
Best icebreaker: King Kong
If you could date a movie character, who would it be? Lindsay Lohan in Parent Trap. Twins!
What's your dating philosophy—best foot forward or love me

PEPE/ E3



NO ARTIFICIAL COLOR AND FLAVORING.

NO ARTIFICIAL PRESERVATIVES.

NO SYNTHETIC INGREDIENTS.

NO TRANS-FATS.

NO MSG.

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BY JESS ABRERA

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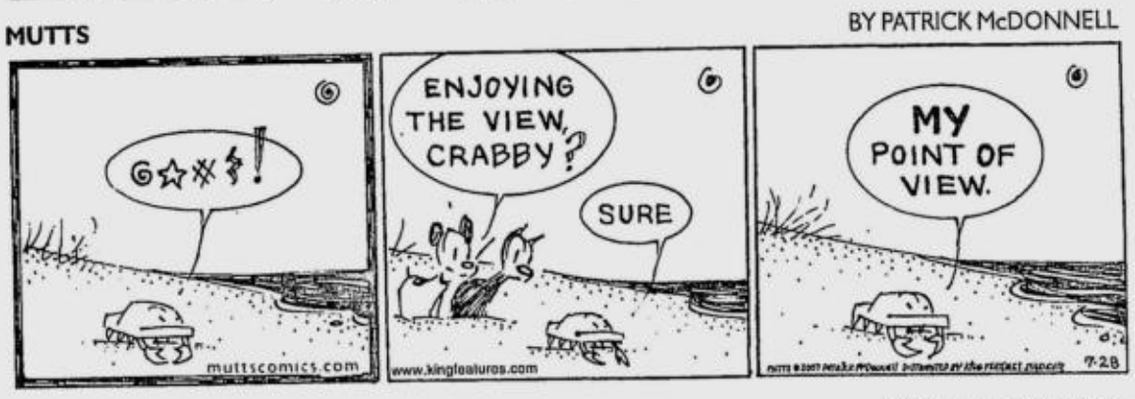
BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

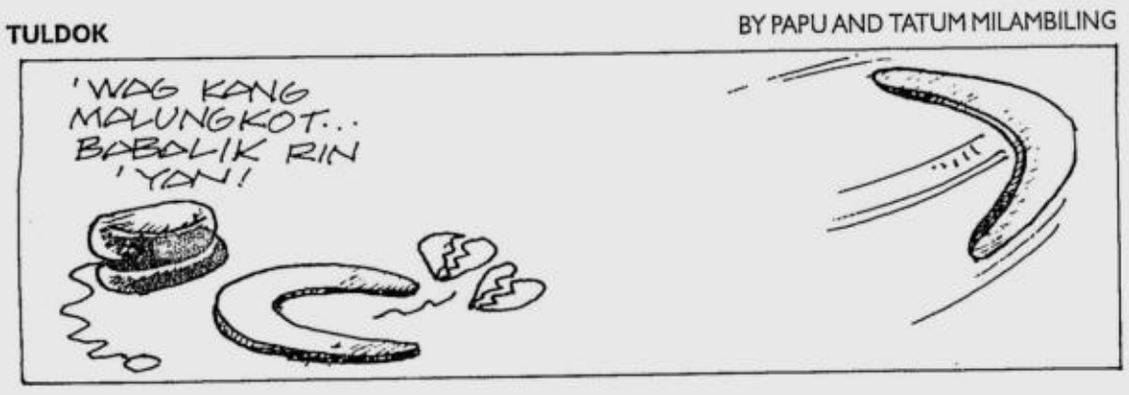
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

NAHULI NG ISANG WHITE HOUSE INTERN SI GEORGE W. BUSH NA GUMAGAWA NG DESISYON TUNGKOL SA WORLD AFFAIRS KATABI ANG ISANG BOWL NG FORTUNE COOKIES

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

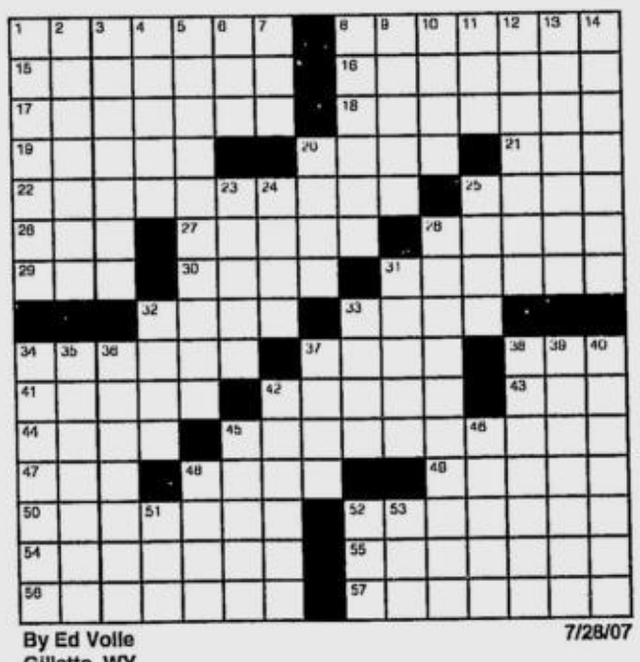


BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ways up
8 Springsteen's epithet
15 Word with riche or art
16 Send a different way
17 Go separate ways
18 Former orphan
19 Period
20 Dried fruits
21 Cartoonist Browne
22 Puppy's brother
25 __ Star State
26 New York pro
27 Stirs up
28 1946-52 N.L. home-run leader
29 Mining product
30 Vidal's Ms. Breckinridge
31 Derisive looks
32 Comic Imogene
33 Galumph
34 Cheapen
37 Elegantly stylish
38 High peak
41 Stave off
42 Oil-spill formation
43 Sri Lanka export
44 Groening or LeBlanc
45 Markets in bulk
47 Be a thespian
48 Yummy
49 Sharif and Epps
50 Revolutionary Che
52 Abstracted musing
54 Most macabre
55 Mrs. Peel or Steed
56 Processes seawater
57 Tower guards

DOWN
1 San __, CA
2 More soaked
3 Skirtlike trousers
4 Kick out
5 Farthest down
6 Greek letter
7 Dine
8 Attributes
9 Bushy row
10 Love god
11 "__ 'til You Drop"
12 Bettered
13 "Gone with the Wind" composer
14 Those on a quest
20 FDR's pooch
23 Rolls __
24 Sorvino of "Mighty Aphrodite"
25 Made stuff up?
28 Topples
31 Bread portion
32 Golf course transport
33 Rizzuto or Donahue
34 Injured
35 Displaced person
36 Improves
37 Lump of dirt
38 On the loose
39 More wary
40 Quarterbacks, at times
42 Piglets
45 Pessimistic expectation
46 Change for the better
48 Scottish Highlander
51 Routing word
52 Lacking experience
53 One of the Gabors



By Ed Volle
Gillette, WY
7/28/07

Friday's Puzzle Solved

F	I	S	T		S	W	I	G		E	B	S	E	N
I	N	T	O		C	O	L	A		G	O	L	D	A
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H	W	Y		O	P	A			C	U	D			
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A	C	R	E	S		K	N	E	E		E	A	T	S
G	H	E	N	T		S	T	E	M		T	R	O	Y

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7/28/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your resourcefulness allows you to make the best of any situation. Because of your regal authority, you want to be first in whatever you do. (And you generally are!) Once you're determined to get your way, nothing stops you. Your challenge is to learn to love unconditionally and to accept unconditional love from others. The year ahead could be one of the best years of your life!
Birthdate of: Lori Loughlin, actress; Sally Struthers, actress; Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, first lady/socialite.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Expect the unexpected at home today. Surprise company might drop by; expected company might be a no-show. Or you might buy high-tech or computer-related items for your home.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today is full of restless, excited energy for you. You're not sure which way to turn or what to do—simply because you want to do everything!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New moneymaking ideas or new purchases (especially those related to aviation or high-tech items) are likely. Your cash flow is changing very quickly today—both the positive and the negative.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're full of exciting, restless energy today. You're ready for anything that's different and adventurous. Because of this, you'll meet people from different cultures or different backgrounds from yours.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The process of creativity is curious. It generally requires that certain ideas have to cook on the back burners of your mind. That's exactly what's happening today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You'll either meet new and unusual people today or you will make a new friend, or perhaps an existing friend will do something that surprises you. Get ready!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be ready to jump in either direction when bosses, parents and teachers talk to you today. On the other hand, they might be impressed with your bright, new ideas!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Unexpected opportunities to travel, study, take courses or learn something new could fall into your lap today. Similarly, surprising news regarding politics or religion might amaze you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Keep your pockets open today! Gifts, goodies and all kinds of advantages and perks (even cold, hard cash) can come your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Partners and close friends might throw you a curveball. But hey, this is nothing you can't handle. In fact, you find this rather interesting!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The introduction of new systems or technology (computers or something like this) at work makes things exciting but a bit off the wall. Don't worry—you'll adjust to this.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Surprise flirtations can delight you today. Perhaps this could lead somewhere. Others will enjoy an unusual artistic event or time spent with children.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

						4	1	
6		9			2			
4				7			8	
	4		1		7			
		6				9		
			8		6		7	
	9			6				4
			7			5		2
	8	5						

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/28

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	1	2	6	9	4	3	8	7
4	9	6	8	7	3	2	5	1
8	3	7	5	2	1	9	6	4
2	7	5	1	4	8	6	9	3
6	4	1	9	3	2	8	7	5
9	8	3	7	5	6	4	1	2
3	5	8	2	6	7	1	4	9
1	2	9	4	8	5	7	3	6
7	6	4	3	1	9	5	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/27

Pam Pastor

Age: 26. But my mental age is 16. 15. No, 14.
Status: Twin sharing
Day job: Inquirer's role juggler
Night job: When the moon is out, I sing and get drunk with my band Mozzie.
What's your sign? Proceed with caution
Do you smoke or drink? Beer is my friend.
Dietary preferences? Heck, as long as it doesn't move... and isn't pickled.
Sexual preference: It changes every day.

Are you...

...active or a couch potato? I look like a couch potato but in reality, I only stop moving when I'm sleeping. Or maybe not even then.
...a brainiac or a maniac?
A crazy mix of both.
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? I like speed. Life is too short.
...on time or fashionably late? Late and apologetic. There's nothing fashionable about it.

Would you rather go for...

...local love or an international affair? Life has taught me thrice that long-distance relationships don't work.
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? Give me speed any day.
...love or money? Love. I can make my own money.

Dating history

Your last relationship ended because... my brain started working again.
Tell us about a date from hell. His name was Lucifer...
Worst thing heard on a date. "My mom's looking for me na."
Best thing heard on a date. "Do you want steak?"
Can you be friends with an ex? Would not stomping on their heads count as being friends with them?
Best date ever. We walked through a magical forest, scattering crumbs of baked goodies as we went. My eyes widened when we reached a gingerbread house...Oh no wait, that's Hansel and Gretel.
How did you ever mess up a date? I showed up—and ruined their date.

Dating DNA

Five things you look for in a date: A sense of humor, passion, wit, spontaneity and a good appetite. I'm not a fan of people who don't eat.
Do you believe in love at first sight? Attraction, yes. Lust, yes. But not love.
Weirdest place to meet someone: Your family tree.
Do you believe in love online? Yes. But I also believe in unicorns who grant wishes and little green men who chase after pots of gold.
Non-negotiables and deal-breakers: Two things—homophobia and cheating.
Best dating song ever: Right now I'm loving Portions for Foxes by Rilo Kiley. I love the last lines—"And you're bad news/I don't care I like you/I like you."
Would you kiss on the first date? If it felt right.
Best date escape action plan: Have a friend call with a fake emergency. I do it for them too.
What do you want to do on a dream date? Talk. And figure out if the other person gets my weird sense of humor.
Best icebreaker. The one I used to play on my Family Computer.
If you could date a movie character, who would it be? Hannibal. Freddie. Michael Myers. I like living dangerously. Oh and Willy Wonka. And Batman. Clearly, I am getting carried away.
What's your dating philosophy—best foot forward or love me as I am? Love me as I am. And if you don't, move on to the next one.
What would ruin a date for you? If the battery runs out.
How would you know if your date is a creep or for keeps/babe or bye bye? Go with gut feel. But if you're blinded, count on your real friends to tell you.
Family history—plus or minus? Plus. I'd like to know I'm not entering the world of the Addams Family.
Best date movie: Child's Play. Seriously.
What should you not eat on a date? Heck, eat whatever you want. If your date can't handle spinach on your teeth, your date wouldn't be able to handle your other dirty little secrets.
Best date advice. Bring enough money to cover both of you, in case your date "loses his wallet" and tell your friends where you are so they'll know where to look in case you turn up missing.
A surprise date from hell would be... any ex.
What would you like to say to an ex? "I want my CDs back."
The opposite of love is... murder.

We call it a Super setup

Get the lowdown on the Super staff's failed relationships, dates from hell, dating preferences and non-negotiables. Soon, it will be your turn.

Katrina Holigores

Name: Age: Can vote and buy liquor anywhere in the world
Status: Mixed doubles
Day job: Crisis center
Night job: Queen of carbs
What's your sign? Will work for food
Do you smoke or drink? Depends on the company
Dietary preferences? Free food
Sexual preference: Mind-blowing

Are you...

...active or a couch potato? Hyper active
...a brainiac or a maniac? Brainiac would be false advertising
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? torpe-demon
...on time or fashionably late? Made in Switzerland

Would you rather go for...

...local love or an international affair? Local love on an international level
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? a combination of both would be ideal
...love or money?
On a reality dating show? Take the money and RUN.

Dating history

Your last relationship ended because of ... telenovela-like situations
Tell us about a date from hell. Nonstop narcissism from the moment he picked me up to the minute he dropped me home. I never heard my name once!
Worst thing heard on a date. "Are you going to finish that?"
Best thing heard on a date. "Wow."
Can you be friends with an ex? Am willing to co-exist with them
Best date ever: If it's with someone you like it's always the best date
How did you ever mess up a date? By agreeing to go on a second one with someone I wasn't into. Disastrous.

Dating DNA

Five things you look for in a date: A pulse, real teeth, hygiene, a sense of adventure and a sense of humor
Do you believe in love at first sight? More in hindsight
Weirdest place to meet someone: Puter space
Do you believe in love online? Only @ amazon.com
Non-negotiables and deal-breakers: Drugs and deception. Oh, and a toupee. Come clean, Mr. Clean.
Best dating song ever: Kissing by Bliss, but it does put the pressure on! hahahahaha!
Would you kiss on the first date? Depends whether the speed demon or torpe-do gets fired first.
Best date escape action plan: "My husband is coming."
What do you want to do on a dream date? I would love to get out of the city or wow, even out of the country and discover something new, and it's gotta involve some really good food.
Best icebreaker : Global warming.
If you could date a movie character, who would it be? This is the easiest question to answer: Julian Sands' character in the A Room With A View. It would help if your view was Italy too.
What's your dating philosophy—best foot forward or love me as I am? Love me as I am, but other things can be revealed later. Hahahahahaha!
What would ruin a date for you? Slamming the car door on my head.
How would you know if your date is a creep or for keeps/babe or bye bye? Simple gestures that don't seem put on. I would include good manners and a semblance of education when dealing with you and the other people you bump into or interact with while on a date. If he mistreats or is abusive to the wait staff or if he has a driver (or God forbid his *yaya* in the car with him) it's over.
Family history—plus or minus? If it's a minus hopefully the apple has fallen a mile away from the tree.
Best date movie: Movie on a first date is a BAD idea.
What should you not eat on a date? Anything that will give you dragon breath and technicolor teeth.
Best date advice:"He's nervous too."
A surprise date from hell would be: A sleazy politician.
What would you like to say to an ex? "Who are you?"

Tals Diaz

Age: [illegible]
Status: [illegible]
Day job: Bookstore [illegible]
Night job: [illegible]
What's your sign? [illegible]
Do you smoke or drink? [illegible]
Dietary preferences? Liquid
Sexual preference: Frequent

Are you...

...active or a couch potato? [illegible]
...a brainiac or a maniac? [illegible]
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? [illegible]
...on time or fashionably late? [illegible]

Would you rather go for...

...local love or an international affair? An international affair [illegible]
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? [illegible]
...love or money? [illegible]

Dating history

Your last relationship ended: [illegible] was Batman
Tell us about a date from hell. [illegible] was really hot.
Worst thing heard on a date: [illegible] Batman.
Best thing heard on a date: [illegible] X-ray vision.
Can you be friends with an ex? Yes, of course.
Best date ever: By a beach in the south of Brazil.
How did you ever mess up a date? I told him about my best date ever by the beach in the south of Brazil.

Dating DNA

Five things you look for in a date: Legal age [illegible] things to make up for number one
Do you believe in love at first sight? Yes. Especially after four shots of tequila.
Weirdest place to meet someone: [illegible] in a family reunion
Do you believe in love online? [illegible] I also believe in the tooth fairy. And Spider-Pig.
Non-negotiables and deal-breakers: Sense of humor [illegible] and a disturbing [illegible] Biggest turn-off [illegible]
Best dating song ever: [illegible] by Depeche Mode
Would you kiss on the first date? [illegible]
What do you want to do on a dream date? Sing cheesy glam rock songs on a balcony in Spain with an endless supply of red wine all night.
Best icebreaker: "What's your superpower?"
If you could date a movie character, who would it be? Captain Jack Sparrow.
What's your dating philosophy? God is love. Love is blind. Ergo, God is blind.
What would ruin a date for you? [illegible]
How would you know if your date is a creep or for keeps/babe or bye bye? [illegible] would definitely mean bye bye.
Family history—plus or minus? Multiply
Best date movie: "Before Sunrise"
What should you not eat on a date? Your date.
Best date advice: Shut off your cellphone for a while.
A surprise date from hell would be: last Saturday.
What would you like to say to an ex? The Little Mermaid was [illegible]
The opposite of love is: sanity.

Marlone Rubio

Age: Doesn't matter
Status: Taken
Day job: Sleeping
Night job: Drinking
What's your sign? Virgin
Do you smoke or drink? Drink drink drink
Dietary preferences? Spicy peanuts
Sexual preference: Yes, please

Are you...

...active or a couch potato? Super active
...a brainiac or a maniac? Maniac
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? So fast and furious
...on time or fashionably late? More often than not

Would you rather go for...

...local love or an international affair? Don't care as long as to opposite sex
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? A sex bomb
...love or money? Money to buy love, love to ask for money, or both

Dating history

Your last relationship ended because... she got pregnant. Joke!
Tell us about a date from hell... I found out she's a he.
Worst thing heard on a date... "I have my monthly period."
Best thing heard on a date... "I'm safe."
Can you be friends with an ex? "Why not?"
Best date ever... When she pays the bill.

Dating DNA

Five things you look for in a date: Smart, Touch, Talk, Sun and Globe.
Do you believe in love at first sight? I believe love is blind.
Weirdest place to meet someone: Men's room.
Do you believe in love online? When there's a webcam.
Non-negotiables and deal-breakers: Body odor
Best dating song ever: "Would You Be My Number Two?"
Would you kiss on the first date? Of course.
Best date escape action plan: "My wife is calling."
What do you want to do on a dream date? Go straight to the hotel.
Best icebreaker: Alcohol. Cheers!
If you could date a movie character, who would it be? Sassy girl.
What's your dating philosophy—best foot forward or love me as I am? Love me as I am.
What would ruin a date for you?If my friend caught me dating his girlfriend.
How would you know if your date is a creep or for keeps/babe or bye bye? If she tells me, don't call me, I'll call you. Huhu.
Family history—plus or minus? Multiply
Next step: Find another date.
Best date movie: Horror movies.
What should you not eat on a date? Papaya.
Best date advice: Never ask for pasaload.
A surprise date from hell would be... Another guy.
What would you like to say to an ex? What's your name again?
The opposite of love is... evol.

Pepe Diddy

From page E1

as I am? Love me as you would my worst foot.
What would ruin a date for you? My alarm clock.
How would you know if your date is a creep or for keeps/babe or bye bye? I'm usually the one being judged. (Sobs)
Family history—plus or minus? Minus.
Next step: They say it gets better after first base...
Best date movie: "40 Year Old Virgin"
What should you not eat on a date? Trans fat.
Best date advice: Don't feed the animals.
A surprise date from hell would be: with animals.
What would you like to say to an ex? Please point that knife away.
The opposite of love is... normalcy. (Sobs.)

James Gabrillo

Age: Twentynothing
Status: Rambling, happy, low-profile
Day job: Your geeky seatmate in Geology class
Night job: Peter Parker, the kimchi-eating version
What's your sign? Whenever I stand in front of a random building trying to make it levitate, and I see via my peripheral vision that a policeman is walking towards me, that's the sign for me to run.
Do you smoke or drink? I drink Chuckie choco drink twice a day, in the morning and before I sleep.
Dietary preferences? Oh, you have got to try that Thai *carinderia* near Rockwell called Soms. Their red curry's awesome.
Sexual preference: I am a good boy.

Are you...

...active or a couch potato? I daydream in public transportation. My imagination never takes a nap. Yehess.
...a brainiac or a maniac? This year, I'm finishing a book chronicling global modern-day slavery. Yehess.
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? Initial D is one of the best things that has happened to Animax.
...on time or fashionably late? I believe in not wasting other people's time.

Would you rather go for...

...local love or an international affair? The Philippines is a beautiful country.
...a speed demon or a torpe-do? Taz was my favorite cartoon character when I was nine. Now it's Miyazaki's Totoro. Classic.
...love or money? Love is the answer.

Dating history

Your last relationship ended because ... although I can kick with either foot, I couldn't throw a baseball with authority. The coach didn't allow me to join the team. Tear.
Tell us about a date from hell. James and Lily were spending quality time with their kiddo when Voldemort showed up and ... oh, wait.
Worst thing heard on a date "Expelliarmus!"—Sorry, just finished reading. Still mourning over ... of course I'm not gonna say who.
Best thing heard on a date Punk-fused ska with hard rock.
Can you be friends with an ex? Everybody should be friends with each other.
Best date ever: Christmas is always a great day.
How did you ever mess up a date? July 24, 2007—on that fateful day, I accidentally broke my model airplanes.

Dating DNA

Five things you look for in a date: Truth, generosity, sincerity, loyalty, and love. Five things I look for in everything, actually.
Do you believe in love at first sight? I believe in Willy Wonka and his Oompa-Loompas.
Weirdest place to meet someone: When you're all alone in your room and someone appears beside you. Hello, hello!
Do you believe in love online? If the love is true, good and unconditional, then why not?
Non-negotiables and deal-breakers: If a person is nice to you but is arrogant to the waiter, then he or she is not a nice person.
Best dating song ever: None of the songs from the Vicor Records album, "Truly Mike Chan."
Would you kiss on the first date? There are things that we have to learn to safeguard. Who said purity isn't cool?
Best date escape action plan: "Expelliarmus!" Sorry.
What do you want to do on a dream date? Ooh, dreams are always interesting. On the way to the office a while ago, I daydreamed of uncrowded trains devoid of cheesy music. MRT Radio, anyone? And train ticket booths that serve free refreshments. Fantastic.
Best icebreaker: Ice-Ice-Water
If you could date a movie character, who would it be? I'm perfectly okay with the real world, thanks.
What's your dating philosophy—best foot forward or love me as I am? "Don't believe your own press releases." –Taguig Mayor Freddie Tiñga. And also, "Never tickle a sleeping dragon."
What would ruin a date for you? Anything that's overboard.
How would you know if your date is a creep or for keeps/babe or bye bye? Usually, it's gut instinct. It wouldn't hurt if we all use our common sense too.
Family history—plus or minus? Doesn't really matter. Of course, if the person's last name is "Bush," you know you should stay away.
Best date movie "Sky High" was underrated. It's pretty fun.
What should you not eat on a date? I'm not allergic to anything, but beer makes me red easily. Am I revealing too much information here or what?
Best date advice: Homework's more important. Yehess.
A surprise date from hell would be: someone who resides outside our lovely planet.
What would you like to say to an ex? The other 25 letters would like to greet you with a big alphabet-y hello!
The opposite of love is ... Voldemort. Sorry, couldn't help it. Am I revealing too much information here or what?

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Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphic Design
Aries Espinosa, Editor

InterContinental Manila mounts all occasions fair

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA, WITH partners BPI Express Credit, 105.1 Crossover and 92.3 xFM, is all set to stage a fair that will focus on both personal and corporate milestone events on July 29 to 30. Dubbed as Elements of Style, A Celebration of All Occasions, the unique exposition will gather the country's leading products and services suppliers and designers under one roof. Fairgoers will not only have the chance to meet up with them, but will also be treated to actual style scenarios as staged by them. These scenarios will be created in the hotel's various function rooms that have recently been refurbished. Among these must-see set-ups are a wedding, debut, kiddie party, golden wedding anniversary, international wedding, christening, product launch, press conference, corporate cocktails, retirement party and clients night.

The hotel lobby will have the much-talked-about celebrity bridal gown exhibit. For this year, the gowns of Audrey Tan-Zubiri, a Manobo wedding dress; Amina Aranaz-Alunan, a Hollywood glam ensemble by Jojie Lloren; Tisha Cruz-Bautista, a beautiful study in simplicity by Giovanni Sanna; Georgia Schulze-del Rosario, a lacy Spanish-inspired gown by Ivarluski Aseron; Cindy Lotuaco-Ejercito, a dream creation by Frederick Peralta; and Stephanie Zubiri-Delfour, a hand-embroidered piña masterpiece by her mom, Vicky Zubiri, will be displayed museum-style for all to admire.

Talks by style experts on a variety of interesting topics will take place at the Grand Ballroom. On Sunday, July 29, the schedule of talks will be:

1 to 2 p.m. - Menu Planning: A Taste of Entertaining by Food Magazine; 3 to 4 p.m. - Of Dreams and Wedding Gowns by Metro Weddings editor, Romina Urra and 5 to 6 p.m. - Debut Style Fresh Forecast by Chalk and Pink Magazines. Monday, July 30, talks will consist of: 2 to 3 p.m. - Entertaining Protocol by Ambassador Hector Villaroel and 4 to 5 p.m. - Budgeting for Style: The Practical Plan by Rhea de la Cuesta and Chito Ladia.

On Monday, July 30, at 8 p.m., talented young fashion designers from the College of St. Benilde will present their take on current style trends. Their Jet Set Soiree: Style Trends show is a collection of chic round-the-clock clothes. Watch tomorrow's big names in fashion now at the InterContinental Grand Ballroom.

Fairgoers who book their events during the two-day fair can avail of BPI's 0% Interest Special Installment Plan on their chosen package. Fair hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, please call 815-9711.

City Garden Suites - Manila unveils its newly renovated rooms

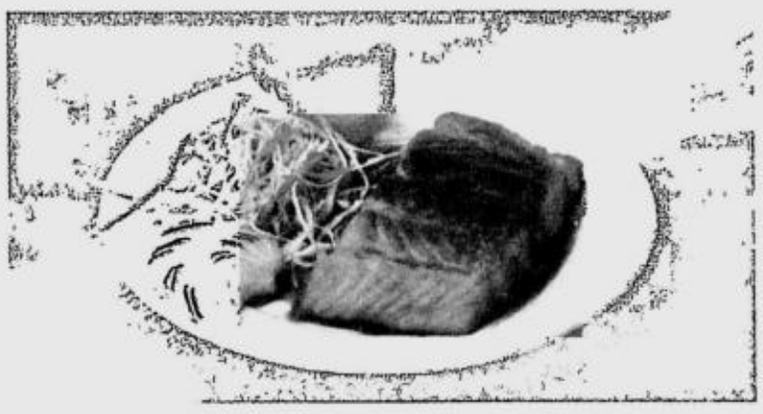
CITY GARDEN SUITES -Manila, a leading standard class hotel has always been a preferred place of tourists and businessmen. Known for its world-class quality facilities and services, guests are greatly satisfied by its classy and elegant rooms aside from its very affordable rates. As part of its commitment of providing best value rates to its guests, one may enjoy a relaxing stay at its exquisitely furnished room for as low as P1,800+ which comes with a free buffet breakfast.

Recently, as part of its corporate thrust of continues improvement, City Garden Suites has unveiled its newly renovated rooms. Inspired in Zen type interior, these rooms are spruce and now more stylish, more relaxing and comfortable. Upon entering the new rooms, a feeling of sophistication and comfort immediately transcends within your senses. It's relaxing hues and colors, clears ones mind of stress and tensions from a tiring day. Fixtures and materials build up an invigorating feeling, giving you more inspiration to accomplish tasks ahead. Moreover, appliances such as television sets were also upgraded into more modern models. Another advantage is the availability hotel-wide wireless Internet access that is also priced reasonably.

City Garden Suites - Manila is conveniently located at 1158 A. Mabini Street, Ermita, Manila, near International and Domestic airports, US Embassy, Japanese Embassy, major business establishments, World Trade Center, malls, commercial centers, Baywalk, entertainment hub, tourist spots and historical landmarks. For inquiries and reservations, contact (632)536-1451 to 59 or e-mail cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

The Richmonde Grill and the Exchange give 'Back to Back Treats'

THE RICHMONDE GRILL AND EXCHANGE BAR TAKE UTMOST PLEASURE IN SERVING THEIR patrons over and over again. So as the restaurants way of welcoming everyone back on their next visit, they are giving away a P100 voucher for every P1,000 spent at the restaurants. These vouchers can be used as payment for food and beverage orders at the Grill and Exchange. What's more, every time you dine, you get this treat again and again. So eat, drink and enjoy! Richmonde wishes you the time of your life as you savor succulent dishes and choice drinks at the Grill or delight in zesty cocktails and scintillating entertainment at the Exchange. And they'll definitely look forward to welcoming you back. To avail of these Back-to-Back Treats, all receipts must be for single dine-in transactions from July to September, either at The Richmonde Grill or Exchange Bar. For more information, call 638-7777 local 3409 (Grill) or 3408 (Exchange).



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Playa Calatagan is the official venue of Metro-Active Magazine's event

PLAYA CALATAGAN, THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST LEISURE-TOURISM ESTATE designed amid the beaches of Calatagan in Batangas, recently hosted a set of summer activities for Metro Active Magazine of ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. Backed by sponsors and partners, Playa Calatagan and Metro Active Magazine jointly organized various summer activities including beach volleyball, kayaking, cable boarding, kite boarding, wake boarding, wall climbing, and ultimate frisbee. In Playa Calatagan, visitors can take leisurely walks and enjoy the seascape along the Beach Promenade. Residents can swim in the 800-square meter river pool or bond with their little tykes in the kiddie pool. Playa Calatagan's amenities will include vacation residences, hotel accommodations, retail stores, a host of shopping, dining, and entertainment venues, and a variety of recreational options.

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Catherine Zeta-Jones speaks with no reservation

ZETA-JONES. Plays a tough restaurant chef in her latest film.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"WHAT YOU SEE HERE takes hours, let me tell you," Catherine Zeta-Jones told reporters in a recent presscon. "You should have seen me hours ago!"

What we saw in that hotel conference room in New York was breathtaking. The same can be said of her black and cream Herve Leger outfit—we wondered how she managed to breathe in such a tight dress.

But, what the actress must have looked like hours ago is probably how she appears in the romantic drama, "No Reservations," where she appears *sans* makeup in some scenes: She still doesn't look bad—not bad at all!

Catherine has played American characters so many times that we still get surprised every time we interview her, because she naturally speaks in her native Welsh accent.

Regimented life

During the presscon, since she plays a tough New York gourmet restaurant chef whose regimented life is upended by the arrival of a niece (Abigail Breslin) and a charming sous-chef (Aaron Eckhart) in the film, the topic was about food—including caviar as . . . shampoo!

She also talked about the houses (in Bermuda, Manhattan, Majorca and Quebec) she and her husband, Michael Douglas, have amassed after seven years of marriage and two children, Dylan and Carys.

When she discussed food in her rich, languorous voice, we swear: "Welsh lamb" never sounded so sensuously delicious! The 37-year-old actress, who won an Oscar for "Chicago," is a little imperious—*but* in a very charming way. She exudes confidence—tons of it! Zeta-Jones, to say the least, is not meek and shy. But, she makes for good copy! Here are excerpts from our interview:

How does acting fit into your active role as a mother?

I'm foremost a mother and a wife. I won't get this time back with my little ones, who are 6 and 4 now. Time with them is precious—everyone tells me how quickly it goes. Now, I can't just pack up and leave, as opposed to how it was before I met Michael.

Summer break

Before I had kids, if somebody said to me, "There's a film in Romania," I would say, "Okay, what time is my flight?" When I work now, it has to be close to Bermuda—the kids are in school there. This film was shot here, which was great, because on weekends, I could fly there or they could come here. I finished the other movie in London during the summer break.

Can you share an anecdote about your children?

Dylan was doing Occupations Day (when students talk about their parents' careers) at school. When he got home, he asked Michael and me about our careers, so we said, "Mommy and daddy make movies." But, this was the time when I went back to work and Michael took time off to be a stay-at-home dad.

Dylan said, "Wait a minute: Mama makes movies. Daddy, you just make pancakes!" Michael was like, "After 40 years in the business and two Oscars, it comes down to my son thinking that all I do is make pancakes!" *(Laughter)*

Shampoo

Are you aware of the story about you supposedly using caviar—that's worth 400 British pounds—as shampoo?

Let's set the record straight: This story came from London. There are ridiculous things written about me, but this one is up there with the *really* ridiculous!

Do you think I would do that—put 400 British pounds' worth of caviar on my head? What I'd rather be doing instead is sit and eat out of that tin can, put a little sour cream and onion, a bit of egg white, and sip Bellini!

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5 RATATOUILLE
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7 BLIND DATING
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This is the film adaptation of Orlando Nadres' breakthrough play about homosexuality, starring *Nonie Buencamino* as a repressed pawnshop owner, *Jon Santos*, as the town's beautician, and *Jerwin Mercado* as the man that will change their lives forever.

Robinsons Movieworld Galleria indieSine showing on July 25 to 31

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11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

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4 RATATOUILLE
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6 TRANSFORMERS
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7 HARRY POTTER 5
11:00MF 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS
12:00MF 3:00 6:00 9:00

2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
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3 RATATOUILLE
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

4 BLIND DATING
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5 DIE HARD 4
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6 VACANCY
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7 HARRY POTTER 5
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8 OUIJA
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NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 RATATOUILLE
3 OUIJA
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

PIONEER

1 OUIJA
1:10MF 3:35 6:00 8:25

2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
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3 RATATOUILLE
1:15MF 3:45 6:15 8:40

4 BLIND DATING
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"VACANCY." Terror ploys are sometimes too lush and gross to be taken seriously.

PERALEJO. Portrays a teacher in "Tiyanaks."

Two different ways to scare moviegoers

By Nestor U. Torre

THROUGH THE YEARS, MOVIE FADS have changed as often as our favorite aging screen diva goes under her plastic surgeon's knife (every couple of years or so)—but horror films have steadfastly been popular with moviegoers.

What is it about the human psyche that makes us want to be periodically shocked out of our wits? The answers reach as far back as childhood, and kids' delicious fascination with monsters.

Even more horrors assault us as grownups, so we look for the "rehearsal" and catharsis of horror movies to enable us to surmount our real-life fears.

Opportunities

More recently, the horror film has also reinvented itself as a teen date movie, its creepy chills and thrills providing terrified couples numerous excuses and opportunities to clutch at each other in the dark!

Yes, the links between terror and lust profitably assert themselves, prompting producers of horror flicks to shriek and laugh—all the way to the bank!

But, there are horror films and horror films, as their makers explore different ways to scare moviegoers.

Recently, "Tiyanaks" attempted to terrify the living daylights out of local viewers by reviving the old tale about demon babies and children.

This time around, the creepy toddlers' victims were the members of a college class on a provincial vacation with their *kunsintidora* teacher (played by Rica Peralejo).

Predictably, the students are killed one by one by the perverse imps, and nobody seems to be able to do anything to stop them.

As in *"de-kahon"* harum-scarum movies like this, the impatient viewer give the *tiyanaks'* victims failing marks on point of common sense: Why, oh why, don't they flee the haunted house and its environs, where the ferocious imps do their worst?

Since the victims are dense, viewers can't feel much pity for them, so the movie's actual horrific effect is decidedly weak. No fierce embraces in the dark during the screening of this flick, we fear . . .

In the case of the American horror-torture-murder film, "Vacancy," the terrors come more often. However, its ultra-real scare tactics reach such fever pitch that the viewer eventually switches off, refusing to be subjected to more in-your-face terror than he'd want to handle.

In the film, a squabbling married couple (Luke Wilson and Kate Beckinsale) find themselves stranded in the middle of the night in a godforsaken place, where the only signs of civilization are a gas station and a seedy motel.

Forced to spend the night in the motel, they soon realize that all their movements are being videotaped, and that the motel is the venue for a series of "snuff" (actual murders) movies—"starring" the motel's customers themselves!

Determined not to become the latest snuff stars, the couple does everything to survive the resident predators' many onslaughts.

Predators

With terror piled upon terror, the viewer is reduced to a quivering mass of gelatin—until he cries out, "Enough!" He's just being manipulated, of course, but the moviemakers' ploys are sometimes too lush and gross to be taken seriously. Worse, the predators don't seem to be all that hell-bent on successfully trapping, torturing and killing them.

Sometimes, the deadly assaults come one after another—then, there's an unexplained lull, during which their intended victims attempt to escape! Then, the whole cycle is repeated, prompting the viewer to realize that it's all just a cinematic game—played badly.

Catherine Zeta-Jones . . . From page F1

You have houses all over the world. Where do you live most of the time?

We live in Bermuda. People ask, "Why do you live there? Is it for tax reasons?" I say, "No, Michael's mother is from there." When I was pregnant with Dylan, we lived here in New York.

As much as we love the hustle and bustle, the stores, restaurants and museums, we thought about buying a house in the country. We looked around. Then, Michael said: "You know what? I have Bermuda on my mind—it's only an hour and 45 minutes from here. It would take us longer if we drove to the Hamptons." So, we gave it a try.

Privacy

Initially, I thought it would be a long-weekend house. But, we fell in love with Bermuda. It has been fantastic for the children! They have privacy. You don't see photographs of them at the park in the papers.

At the same time, it's great that we can always come back to the city. If I lived only there, I'd get island fever, although we're kind of island people—Bermuda, Manhattan and Majorca. We gravitate to the islands!

In Bermuda, our lifestyle is different. It's family-oriented. Here, we go to fancy restaurants, see friends, and go to the theater. I go shopping and my husband goes crazy over how many bags I come home with.

Spanish vibe

In Majorca, we completely click into the Spanish vibe. We have dinner at 10 o'clock. I can't imagine having dinner at 10 anywhere else! We just bought a place in Canada because we love to ski.

When your character feels frustrated, she goes to the freezer in the restaurant's kitchen. What about you, where do you gather your thoughts?

To answer that question, I have to backtrack a bit. People ask us all the time, "Why do you have so many houses?" We answer, "Some people collect art or lots of money. We collect houses because we prefer, if we have to look at something, the view."

Here, we have a view of Central Park. In Bermuda, we have the Atlantic Ocean. In Majorca, it's the Mediterranean, while in Canada, it's the Mont Tremblant. When I want solace, I look out at my piece of art—which is nature. That's where I find peace!

Can you still focus even with kids running around?

Yes, I can. I say, "Go back inside—this is *my* time out!" *(Laughter)*

As a little girl, did you watch your mother cook?

My mother was a bit like the mother of Kate (her character)—she was good at reheating, and she's the first one to admit it. With three children, two dogs and no help, it was quicker!

But, the one thing that she was very good at was on Sundays: My family had the classic British Sunday lunch—the good, old piece of meat, turkey or chicken, Yorkshire pudding, roasted and mashed potatoes, and lots of gravy. Yes, they're not very healthy, but every time I go back, they're the first things I want to eat! She still makes them.

Do your kids watch you cook?

Michael makes breakfast every Sunday—that's his thing. To help him, Dylan and Carys break the eggs and beat them, while mama sits down and watches it all happen—with my cup of tea. *(Laughter)*

Kitchen

So, the kitchen is not your favorite room in the house?

I'm in the kitchen everyday—just walking through it. *(Laughter)*

I recall a story about you and some fire in the kitchen...

It was here in New York. The kitchen didn't go on fire, but flames started coming out of the pan. I was then dating Michael, and I was trying to impress him. Instead of getting a wet cloth and throwing it on the pan, I ran across the apartment to get Michael. I shouldn't have done that.

How hard was it to prepare for the role of a master chef?

I had two and a half weeks of training. At first, it was intimidating. I went in and said, "Oh my goodness, how many knives do you need in one kitchen?" I started off slowly—chopping, dicing and sautéing. Within days, I started to feel comfortable.

Theatrical

It fascinated me how much goes into what gets served in restaurants. It was theatrical: Even though it was busy, and you heard people shouting orders as pans and plates clanked, if you removed the sound, the scene was like ballet. Each one had his own thing.

Nobody bumped into anyone, and everyone moved gracefully around one another, even as 40 meals were being served at one time! It was quite impressive. Then, I went out and served, which was terrifying!

Was it challenging for you to serve in a restaurant?

It gave me new appreciation for waiters. I'm an actor—I had to know my lines, so I was constantly running the specials over and over. I was standing as they did, hands behind my back, and I realized:

Those customers were not making eye contact with me! I thought for sure they were going to recognize me immediately—but they didn't! They read the menu as I stood over their shoulders reciting the specials, but they weren't looking at me!

Bad customer

The first guy I got to serve was the quintessential bad customer. I said, "Excuse me, would you like to know what the chef is suggesting?" He goes, "Shhh!" (she demonstrated with a scowl and a finger on her lips). So, I try again. I thought I'd butt in and get things moving. "Shhh!," he said again.

I wanted to get a knife and raw steak and stick it on his table! Anyway, it all ends in fun. An hour later, somebody said to me, "Has anyone ever told you that you look like Catherine Zeta-Jones?" I replied: "Yes, I get that all the time. It drives my boss crazy!"

This film and "Ratatouille" show the highly competitive, male-dominated world of gourmet restaurant cooking and how tough it can be for female chefs. Can you comment on this?

I haven't seen "Ratatouille" yet, but I heard it did great business. There's an international phenomenon about chefs—they're like movie stars now. They're on the covers of magazines, signing autographs, and there are restaurants where you have to book for years in advance.

Male-dominated world

It's a male-dominated world, which confuses me. I don't want to sound sexist, but historically, in families, it's the mother who usually cooks. My mom has been slaving in the kitchen all her life!

In the movie, you appear with hardly any makeup on in some scenes.

The character was not what most people would describe as the quintessential Catherine Zeta-Jones role. It was refreshing to just stick my hair up with a pencil. It doesn't bother me. We won't be glamorous and gorgeous forever!

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Tessa is breastfeeding's latest advocate

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

RECENTLY, HEALTH Secretary Francisco T. Duque III conferred on Tessa Prieto-Valdes the title, "Idol ng Breastfeeding," in a simple ceremony.

The conferment highlighted the urgency and indispensability of breastfeeding from the first hour of birth until six months later. It's the most crucial step in ensuring a child's health and survival.

The DOH's choice of Valdes was brought about by its belief that she can bring her infectious verve to the department's national breastfeeding campaign.

Source of nutrition

Tessa further redefines the image of the working Filipino woman, who puts the health and safety of her children first by giving them only the best—starting with breast milk, which provides an infant's most excellent source of nutrition.

Dr. Duque muses: "Despite her tight schedule, Tessa managed to bond with her 2-year-old daughter, Athena, through breastfeeding. The precocious girl was exclusively breastfed for six months, and continued to be breastfed for a year." Tessa proved that even breastfeeding can be fashionable!

In celebration of the World Breastfeeding Week, the Bulong Pulong, a group of Women in Media, will discuss "Pushing Up Breastfeeding as a Culture for Moms" in a forum hosted by the World Health Organization at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza on July 31.

Forum

Speakers include WHO's Dr. Howard Sobel, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Dr. Rebecca Singson, Dr. Maria Asuncion Silvestre and Dr. Juliet Sio-Aguilar. The forum is open to health reporters, NGOs, and breastfeeding and pregnant mothers. Call 899-1767.

On Aug 1, 30 Filipino painters will design a mural with breastfeeding as its theme on the walls of the Jose Reyes Hospital in Tayuman.

On Aug. 4, Mommy Milkshake will sponsor a two-kilometer fun walk/run. The event is open to mothers, husbands and their kids. Assembly area is at Gourdo's at The Fort at 8 a.m. Pre-registration is a must. Call 780-9898.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 899-1767.

PRIETO-VALDES (left) receives conferment from DOH chief, Francisco Duque III.

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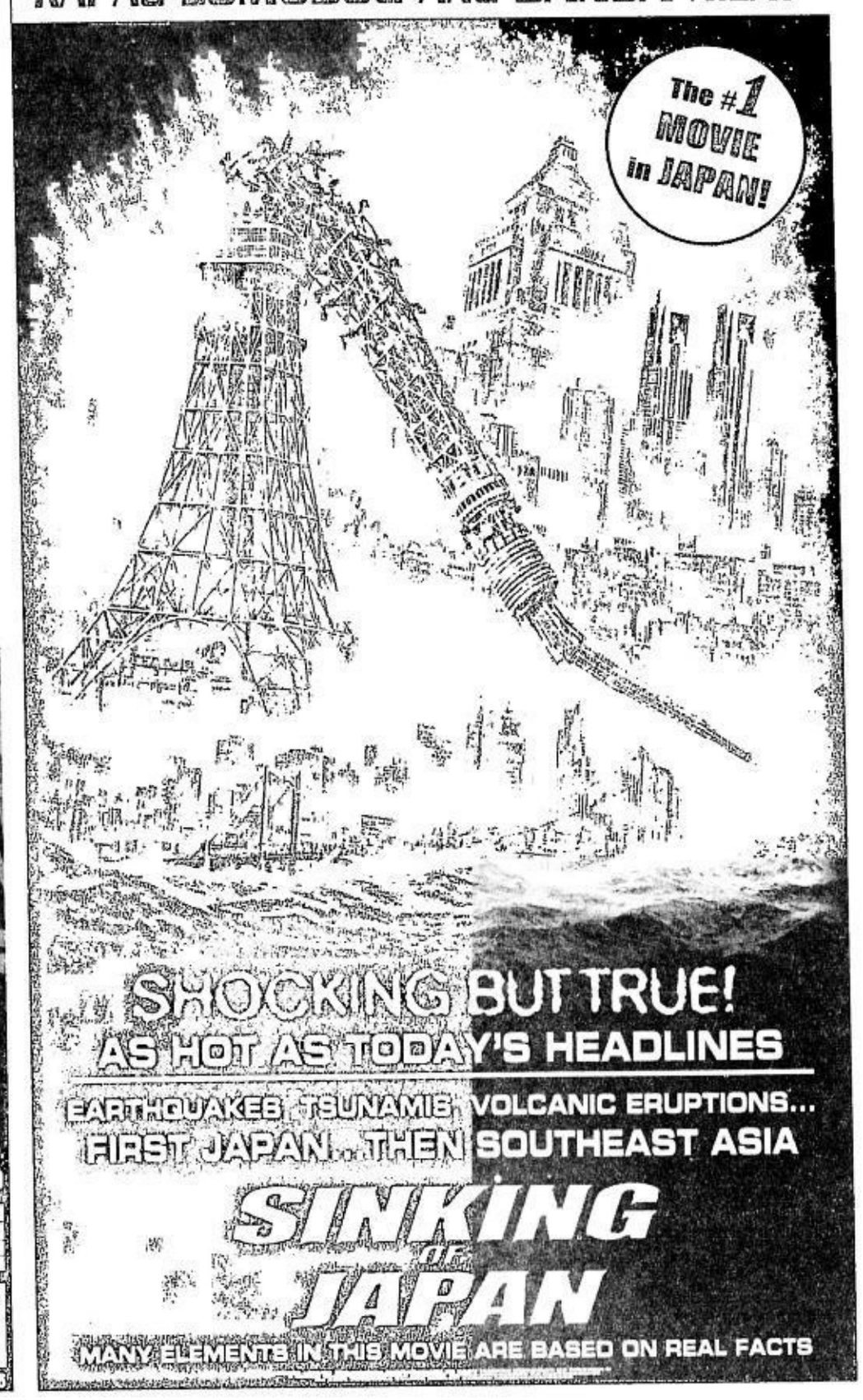

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	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 THE SIMPSONS	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 OUIJA
GREENBELT 1	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 THE SIMPSONS		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE SIMPSONS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE SIMPSONS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BLIND DATING GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RATATOUILLE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE SIMPSONS	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 RATATOUILLE	4 THE SIMPSONS	5 OUIJA	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE SIMPSONS	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 RATATOUILLE	4 OUIJA
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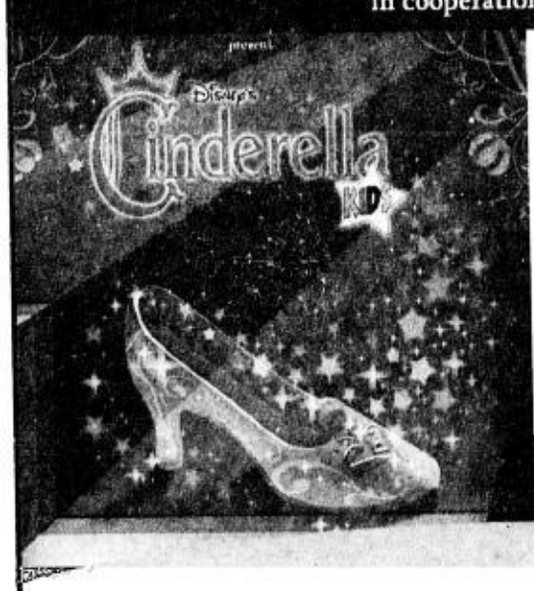

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Cinemalaya movies underscore need for astute casting

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE OF THE INSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES we've been engaging in while watching the Cinemalaya movies at the CCP is to focus in the performances of the child and teen actors in those festival films.

Since quite a number of this year's movies revolve around children, we've been having a field day analyzing which films feature the best-cast and most talented kids. In the process, we've gotten some insights into the importance of astute casting in youth-centered film projects.

Winsome

In the film fest's opening film, "Foster Child," Cherry Pie Picache's 3-year-old ward is perfectly cast. The winsome kid is natural, cute, angelic, vulnerable, playful—everything you'd want a lead child performer to be.

On the other hand, the child and adolescent actors in "Gulong" turn out to be less natural, appealing and accessible. This is a pity, since they provide the movie's point of view, and figure in many of its scenes. They're OK performers, just not vulnerable enough to generate much viewer empathy.

CASTILLO. The Singapore film fest best actor winner stands out again in "Pisay."

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Is this because they're rather hefty? It's becoming clearer to us that, in general, a sensitive look is key to a juvenile actor's effectivity, and extra poundage detracts or distracts from that important effect.

The young actors in "Pisay" turned out better because the teens in the film were more varied in terms of character. The wide range and textured contrast resulting from that varied mix enriches the movie and our appreciation of young scholars, not just as nerds, but also as fascinating people—each unique in his own way.

Standout performers in our book included the lovely girl who played the rich scholar from Negros, the chubby boy who was kicked out, and Elijah Castillo as the scholar who falls ill and dies. The other teen performers also do well, but these three provide the icing on their already yummy "ensemble" cake.

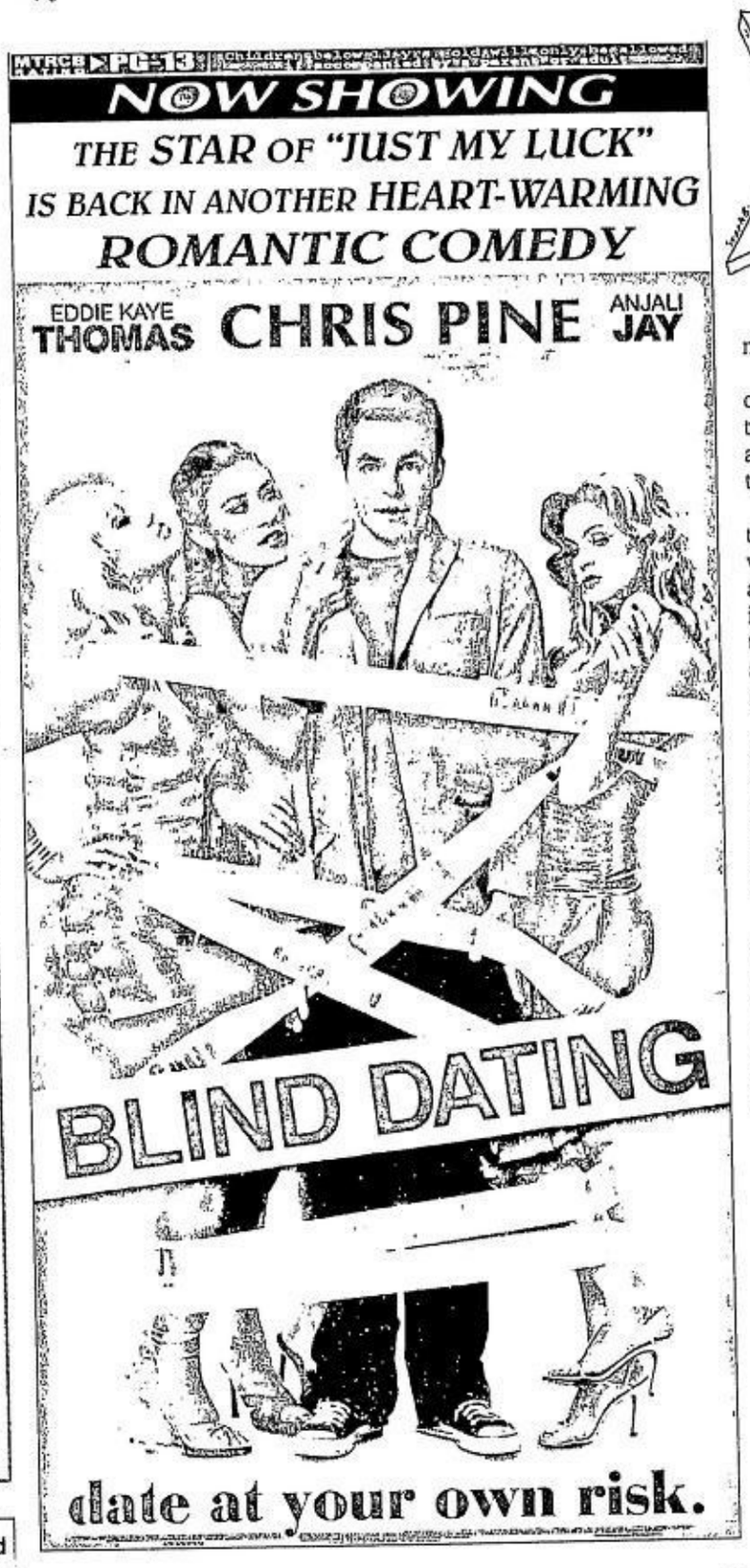
Finally, in "Kadin," the lead roles are played by a young boy and a girl who live in Batanes, the film's exotic locale. The fact that they weren't experienced actors may have given the director problems, but their being completely familiar with and comfortable in its small and unique world more than compensate for their limitations.

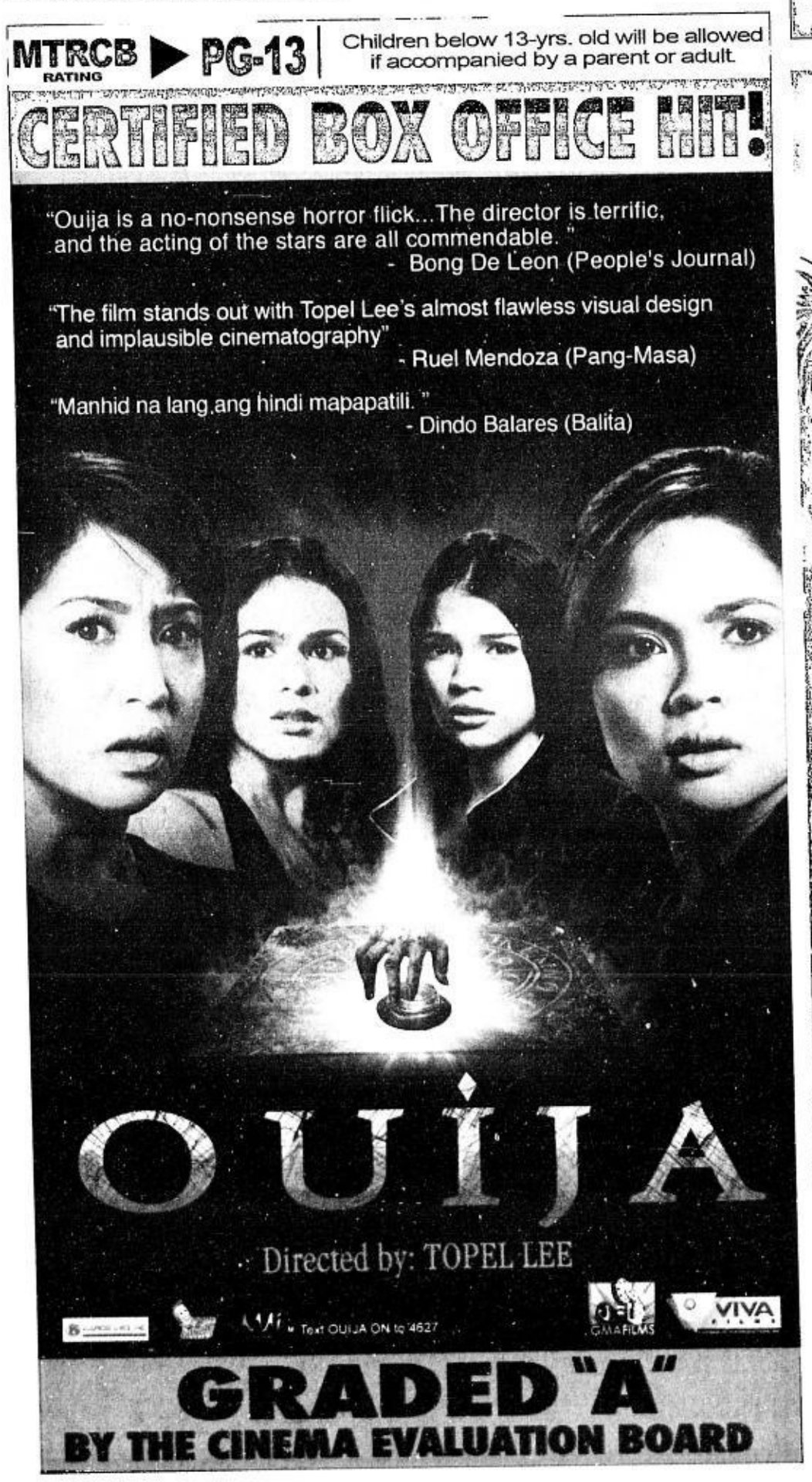
Instinctive nature

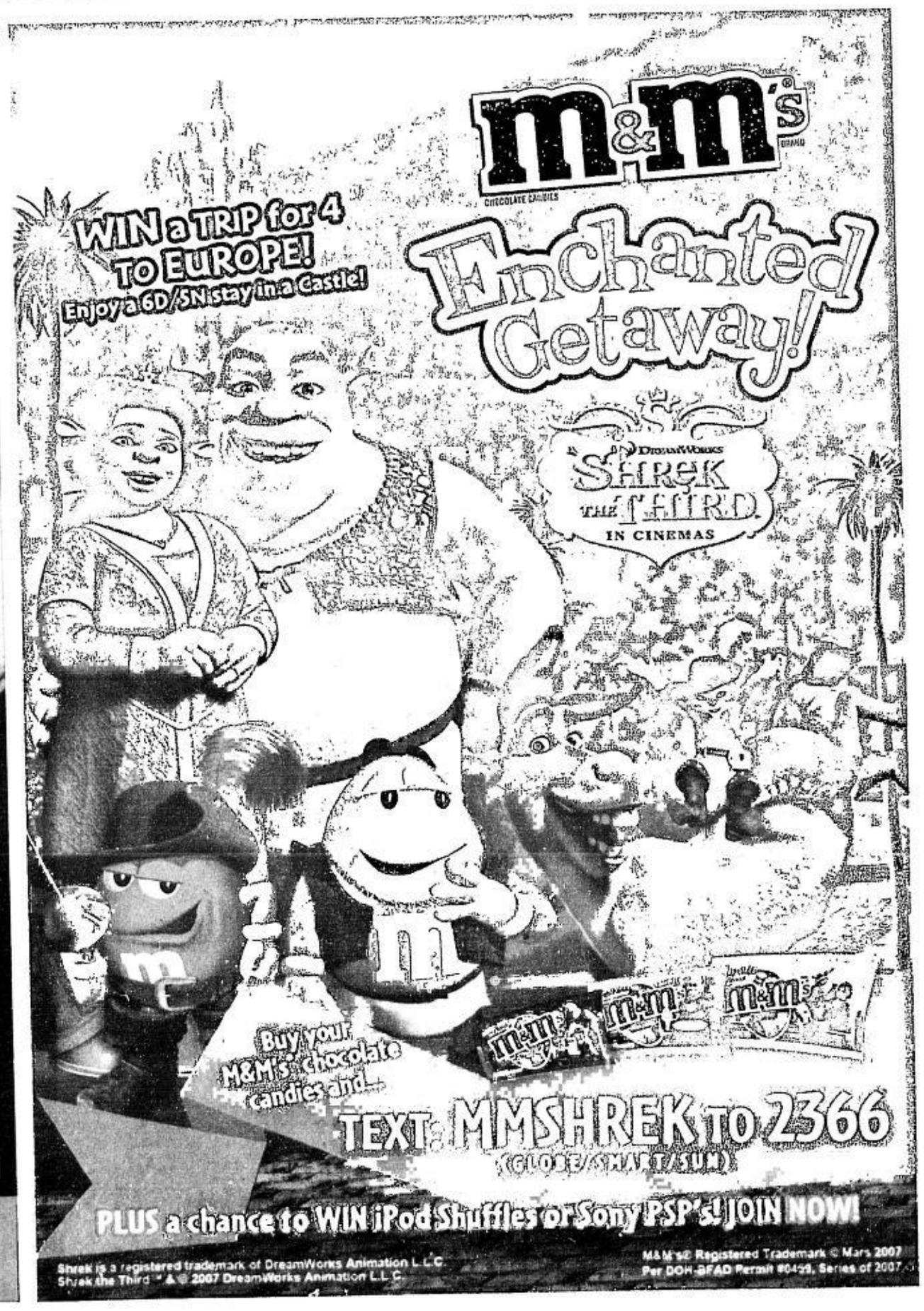
The instinctive nature of their performances gives the film believability and integrity, and that's rare to find on local screens.

In addition, the two child actors were cast on point of contrast, with the boy brooding and duty-bound and the girl feisty and sassy. As a result, even small scenes featuring only the two of them bristle with interesting energy.

All of these examples underscore the difficulty of working with children in the movies, the need for them to be chosen well, and the importance of vulnerability and accessibility for their juvenile performances to hit empathetic viewers where they live and breathe.







IN THIS ISSUE
How not to host a TV show /G3

SATURDAY Special

Gary V takes stock of 24 years of trials and blessings

By Rito P. Asilo

YOU DON'T CALL GARY VALENCIANO MR. Pure Energy for nothing: In a recent public appearance, during which he shared a song and dance number with son Gabriel, we found ourselves electrified by the palpable energy and positive vibe coming from the 42-year-old performer who first caught our attention in the early '80s with his memorable melodies ("Fool Till the End," "Love of Mine," and our personal favorite, "More Than Just Imagination") and catchy dance beats ("You Got Me Working," "Hurry").

Throughout his colorful 24-year career, Gary V has consistently updated his sound with musical and technical innovations that have allowed him to stay in the fickle public's favor and ever-evolving preferences. As wife Angeli Pangilinan leads us to her hubby's waiting room, she softly laughs as we marvel at Gary's ability to work up the crowd.

Easy rapport

After all these years, it's still "befuddling" to see the easy rapport between Gary and his audience at close range, and how he charms them not only with his spirited performances but also with his gentle, wholesome appeal.

But, Angeli shares: "Gary wasn't always like this. He was very rough when he was younger!" Naturally, we were intrigued. Last week, the performer returned to the big screen *via* the Cinemalaya entry, "Gulong," his first since Jose Javier Reyes' 1995 romantic musical, "Hataw Na!," with Dayanara Torres.

As this interview later proves, not everything about Gary V is sugar and spice. The following excerpts reveal that there's more to the guy than his enduring music and well-documented spiritual persuasion:

How do you find the beat and groove of your songs? I love the infectious energy of "Shake It Off," from your latest album, "Relevance." I also love "In Another Lifetime." It's so sad and beautiful...

They just come up like that—something just clicks while I'm in the office, after a meeting, or when I'm in the music room. I write the lyrics and feel the beat go off. "Shake It Off" was done entirely on the road: I was in a car on my way home from a show in Manila Hotel, though originally, the beat was supposed to be slower. (Gary sings a few bars of the song with a slower beat.) But, I wanted something more infectious, so I sat down and worked on the beat—that's how the song evolved.

We like the same songs! Jude Gitamondoc, who's Cebuano, is the composer of "In Another Lifetime." He wrote five of my songs, including the infectious "Wait Forever" (which has the same hopeful sentiment as the former).

Latest version

It's been almost 10 years since you came up with an album of mostly-original songs like 1998's "Interactive." In the latest version of "Wag Mo na Sanang Isipin," you sing with daughter Kiana in a beautiful vocal arrangement. Did you coach her to do all those curlicues? Does she want to pursue singing?

I really didn't do much. I just told her, 'Kiana, this is where I want you to take it—just play with it.' You'll be surprised at what kids can do these days, because they're constantly on their iPods and MP3s—they learn fast, and they're learning new tricks! When I was young, I was more into instrumentation.

Kiana, who's 14 years old, wants to record an album, but she might have to undergo minor surgery on her throat because they found some nodes. I told her, "You see your dad in the mall tours—I enjoy doing them. But, I'm already 42—and I've been doing this since I was 21! That's a lot of load to carry. When you're 16 or 17, we can do that album." Now, she has a whole list of other things she wants to work on.

How different are you from your kids, Paolo, Gabriel and Kiana?

Music is the binding factor. Paolo's different, though. Sometimes, he doesn't have money in his pocket, like me. But, what's good about him is the way he manages his money. He's more organized. He has a good system for putting things way ahead of time. He lived in Valle Verde with his friends when he was studying at De La Salle, because Antipolo (where we live) was simply too far. He took care of the house. I'm not like that, Angeli is.

Beautiful songs

You've written many beautiful songs. Do you have a favorite?

"Take Me Out of the Dark" is my No. 1 favorite! Every time somebody asks me to sing it, I do. No questions asked.

It's been 24 years since your first hit single, "Hang On." Do you have big plans for your 25th year? What else do you want to do?

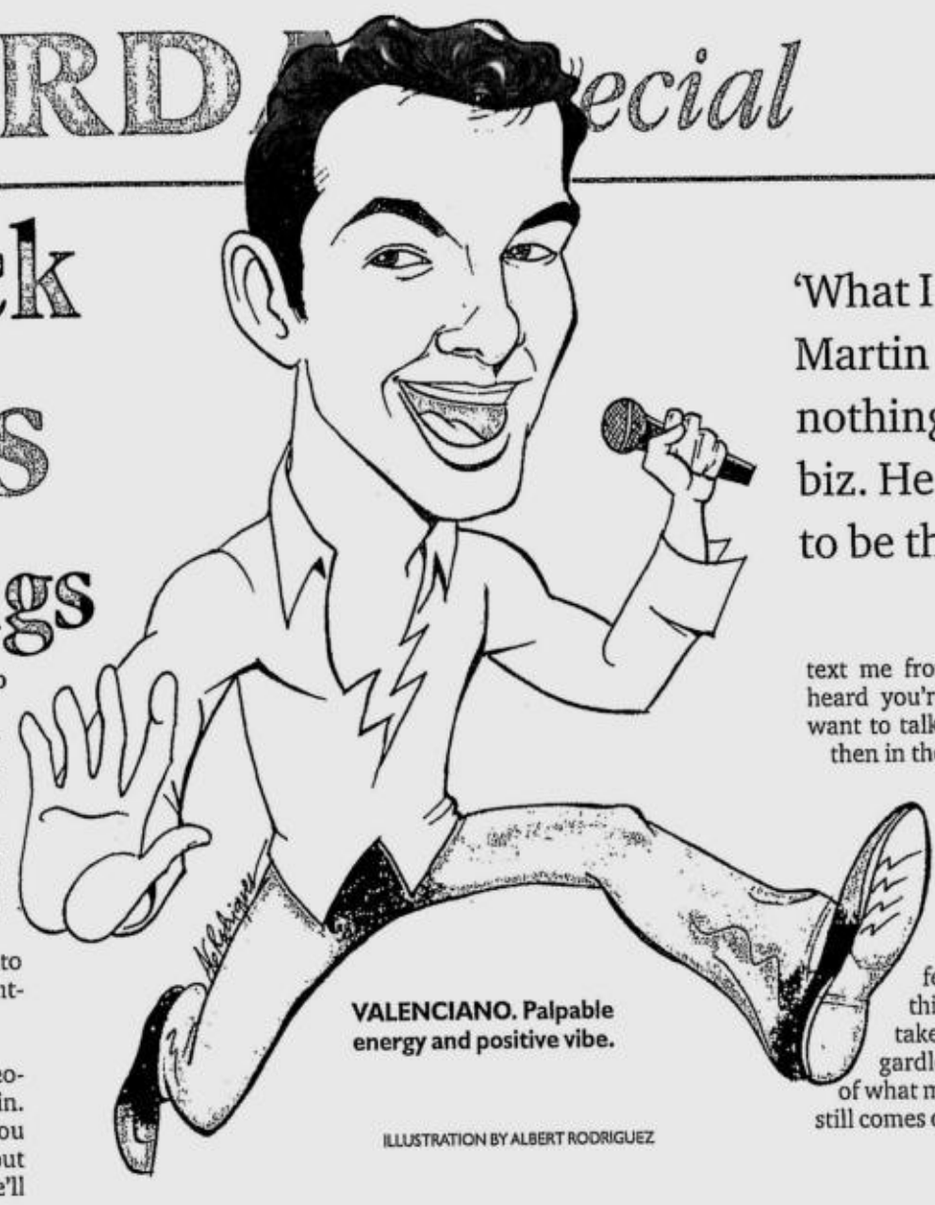
We will be doing 25 big things to celebrate it! I'd like to go back to school to take up courses in audio engineering and film scoring...

You and Martin Nievera are good friends, but you've also been professional rivals. What have you learned from each other?

What I learned from Martin has nothing to do with show biz. He taught me to be thoughtful—because he is very thoughtful!

Really?

I could probably count the number of people I've met who are as thoughtful as Martin. He'll be the one to remind you, "Hey, you know it's the birthday of...," and he'll go out of his way to get something. With me, he'll text me from out of the blue! He'll say, "I heard you're leaving for the States. If you want to talk about it, I'm here." And he was then in the States! But, he's like that. That's Martin for you.



VALENCIANO. Palpable energy and positive vibe.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

'What I learned from Martin (Nievera) has nothing to do with show biz. He taught me how to be thoughtful'

Striving for excellence

You're a perfectionist. Is striving for excellence a negative thing?

I think so, because, for me, perfection is making sure that everything is OK—there should be no mistake. But, excellence "happens" regardless of the mistakes, and regardless of what may not come out based on plans. It still comes out the way it's supposed to be—by

GARY V/ G2

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9 DIE HARD 4
10 VACANCY
11 HARRY POTTER 5
12 TRANSFORMERS

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2 RATATOUILLE
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 OUIJA
6 RATATOUILLE
7 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
8 OUIJA
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 OUIJA
11 DIE HARD 4
12 BLIND DATING

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 BLIND DATING
2 OUIJA
3 WHITE NOISE
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4
6 THE SIMPSONS
7 RATATOUILLE
8 OUIJA
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 RESERVED
11 PLANET TERROR
12 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESERVED
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE
5 RESERVED
6 BLIND DATING
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 RESERVED
9 THE SIMPSONS
10 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RATATOUILLE
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 BLIND DATING
6 OUIJA

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE SIMPSONS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 BLIND DATING
7 OUIJA
8 DIE HARD 4
9 RESERVED

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 BLIND DATING
3 RATATOUILLE
4 DIE HARD 4
5 THE SIMPSONS
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
8 RESERVED
9 OUIJA
10 WHITE NOISE
11 TIYANAKS
12 VACANCY

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1 RESERVED
2 OUIJA
3 THE SIMPSONS
4 RATATOUILLE

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
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6 OUIJA
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

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1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE
5 OUIJA
6 THE SIMPSONS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 OUIJA
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 RATATOUILLE

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1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 HARRY POTTER 5
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4 RATATOUILLE
5 THE SIMPSONS
6 OUIJA

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3 OUIJA
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3 RATATOUILLE
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4 OUIJA

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2 DIE HARD 4
3 OUIJA
4 BORDERTOWN
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2 OUIJA
3 THE SIMPSONS
4 HARRY POTTER 5

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1 TRANSFORMERS
2 ZODIAC
3 RATATOUILLE
4 OUIJA
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 THE SIMPSONS
7 RESERVED
8 DIE HARD 4

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE
4 THE SIMPSONS
5 OUIJA
6 NEXT
7 OUIJA
8 DIE HARD 4

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 THE SIMPSONS
4 OUIJA

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'Ratatouille' has rich cinematic filling

By Noelani Torre

YOU REMEMBER THOSE TIMES when, after watching a beautiful film classic, you sigh with pleasure and wonder why they don't make movies like that these days? The kind of films that don't rely on bombastic special effects or frenetic action scenes, but on oft-neglected reliable elements like engaging characters, humor, and a story with heart.

In today's world of blockbusters and franchises, do they even make 'em like that anymore?

Well, as a matter of fact, they still do—it's just that, you might be looking in the wrong place. Instead of despairing over the crop of glitzy, but ultimately shallow live-action movies currently inundating the cineplexes, cast your eyes on the refreshing, innovative world of animated films.

PIXAR'S latest animated feature is cute and heartwarming.

Heartwarming

Here's what those geniuses in animation can do: They can show you a kitchen overrun by rats, and you won't run screaming out of the theater in revulsion.

Instead, you'll think it's cute and heartwarming—and those rats aren't the Mickey Mouse types, mind you; their fur bristles in detail, and their eyes glow in the dark!

In Disney and Pixar's "Ratatouille," this is one of the many achievements that director Brad Bird and his team have achieved. Most viewers' expectations won't probably be that high (and with recent disappointing animated releases like "Shrek 3," who can blame them?), but those familiar with Bird's previous work ("The Iron Giant," "The Incredibles") will be expecting a lot.

Bird's latest charmer will exceed the expectations of both kinds of viewers. This is not just a good animated film—it's a great one! This seemingly simple tale of a rat with dreams far beyond his reach is one of the year's best films, live-action or animated.

Gourmet taste

Remy (Patton Oswalt) is a rat in France who has gourmet taste, and a passion for haute cuisine. And though his idol, famed chef Auguste Gusteau (Brad Garrett), has always said, "Anyone can cook," Remy isn't sure if rats are included in the statement.

Nonetheless, he can't deny his passion, and when he finds himself in Paris—in the kitchen of the restaurant of the now-deceased Gusteau, no less—and he sees newly-hired garbage boy, Linguini (Lou Romano), mangling a soup, he just can't help himself—he cooks!

The results are surprisingly sublime, and everyone thinks Linguini did it. Linguini, of course, knows that he didn't, so Remy and he decide to combine forces.

Hiding in Linguini's toque, Remy controls the boy's movements by pulling on his hair (yes, it's a bit of a stretch, but the results are hilarious). They create wonderful dishes, but the head chef is suspicious and, of course, we all know that this arrangement can't last, and that Remy must eventually get out from under the toque.

Visual feast

In Pixar's good, old tradition, the characters in the movie are fully drawn, and the story is one that had a lot of thought put into it. The color palette used is soft and a bit diffused, but the kitchen at Gusteau's is a visual feast of sharp detail—as well as a wonderfully chaotic world of fire, steel and motion.

We're all familiar with movies about people (and animals) struggling to reach for a dream, but "Ratatouille" is special because it doesn't try too hard: It's as airy as a croissant on the surface, but it has the richest filling.

Gary V takes stock of 24 years. . .

From page G1

VALENCIANO. "Perfection means bringing out the best in you even in situations that are less than ideal."

affecting and inspiring people! You bring out the best in you even in situations that are less than ideal.

What past mistakes have you made that you want your fans to learn from? Isn't your daily struggle with diabetes hard on your religious convictions?

It's difficult when my sugar levels go up and down. I'm on insulin pump right now, and I'm stuck to a machine. And it has really helped me deal with it—like 80 percent more! It's easier to control.

Dangerous

But, there are other things I wish I didn't have to worry about—like when my sugar level goes too high or too low, which is dangerous.

Sometimes, I hit those levels. It doesn't feel good. They don't affect my pace, but there was a time in the early '80s, before I became Gary V, that I would look up and say, "Come on, that's it?"

I was 14. The same year that my mom and dad split up. Then, I moved to the States with my mom. *Wala na.* We sold the house I grew up in. So, when they checked my sugar, it was really high! The doctors said maybe it was because of the situation I was going through.

Sad time

My father was no longer living with us. My sisters were with me—and I love them dearly—but it was a sad time for me. My dad stayed here, with my only brother. I realized recently that I needed his guidance.

Then, two years after, I came home. And, something happened: I was in a school retreat. Ironically, I was the head of that retreat! I didn't know anything about God at the time. I knew *of* Him, but I'd never experienced Him in my heart. On the last day, my dad came to visit—to break the news that the house had burned down the night before!

I was 18 then. That was the time when I looked up and I said, "God, come on, give me your best shot! You want to take my life? Go ahead!"

There was so much anger! I was so angry about my diabetes, I threw my medicine at the wall. For five days, I had no medication! *Ganoon.* Then, two months after that, I came out on Martin and Pops' show ("Penthouse Live"). Then, I found God—and the rest is history!

How not to host a TV show

From page G3

ratings went up by 25 percent—you get the picture.

If you're dreaming of hosting a TV show and you don't have what it takes, *please* make sure that your ambition remains an unfulfilled dream. Have a heart—all those viewers out there are already hurting, so why add to their woes?

You still aren't sure which way to go? Here's a primer, based on actual, cringe-worthy evidence, on how *not* to host a TV show:

If you possess looks that only a mother could love, or barely tolerate, stay far away from camera range.

Speech impediment

If you look passably human, but have a speech impediment that makes you sound like a bicycle tire going flat, or a squirrel with its mouth full of nuts, pipe down. If you sound OK but can't ad-lib and have to depend on idiot boards for everything you say, don't even bother holding a mike.

If you host a talk show, don't ever say, "Oh, I want to ask you this question—." You're the host, you're *supposed* to ask questions—so, just ask them straight out, OK?

Interview

Also, when you interview somebody, concentrate completely on him, and forget yourself. Believe it or not, to the interviewee and to your show's viewers, you really aren't all that interesting or important. They want to focus not on you, but on the interview, OK?

So, please don't go off into personal tangents about what you're wearing, what your relatives told you last week, what you think about the price of tea in China. —Or else, people will spot you for the *kulang sa pansin* show-off you really are.

If you're co-hosting a variety or game show, don't generate artificial "energy" and "excitement" by screaming your spiels at the top of your lungs, as though the microphone has yet to be invented and you're calling your hubby, who's six *pilapils* away.

Don't make naughty remarks, because they really aren't naughty, they're lewd. Also, please don't insult hapless contestants just to get a cheap laugh.

If you're a field reporter covering a fiesta or some other folk event, don't insult the "ugly" dancers, don't refer to the old people present as *"amoy-lupa,"* and don't sound so snidely above-it-all. —Or else, you will be "karmated" to within an inch of your sniveling, pusillanimous soul.

Field reporter

If you're a news anchor, don't concentrate on your physical beauty—which is debatable—but on the news at hand, the significance of which isn't. Therefore, don't doll yourself up like you desperately want to end up on a 10 Best-Dressed list. Don't try so hard—you won't make it!

How not to host a TV show

By Nestor U. Torre

THERE ARE SO MANY RAW, clueless, and/or incompetent program hosts on TV these days that it behooves us to reject them in no uncertain terms.

Whatever possessed them to even think that they had what it takes to host a TV show competently and entertainingly?

We note that many new program hosts are good-looking—period. Great looks are fine, but TV programs aren't fashion shows or photo galleries! Hosts have to talk, think, interact, give a show its unique signature and tempo. Alas, all some TV hosts can do is to look good—again, period.

Well-connected

Even more gallingly, some new hosts aren't even good-looking! They must be well-connected, or maybe their daddy is footing the bill for the program they host?

Whatever the reason, these obese or scrawny, overdressed and overly made-up creatures are as painful to look at as they are to listen to—so, nobody does. When we tuned in to their shows, their

HOW/G2

"OSS 117 is BETTER THAN 007."
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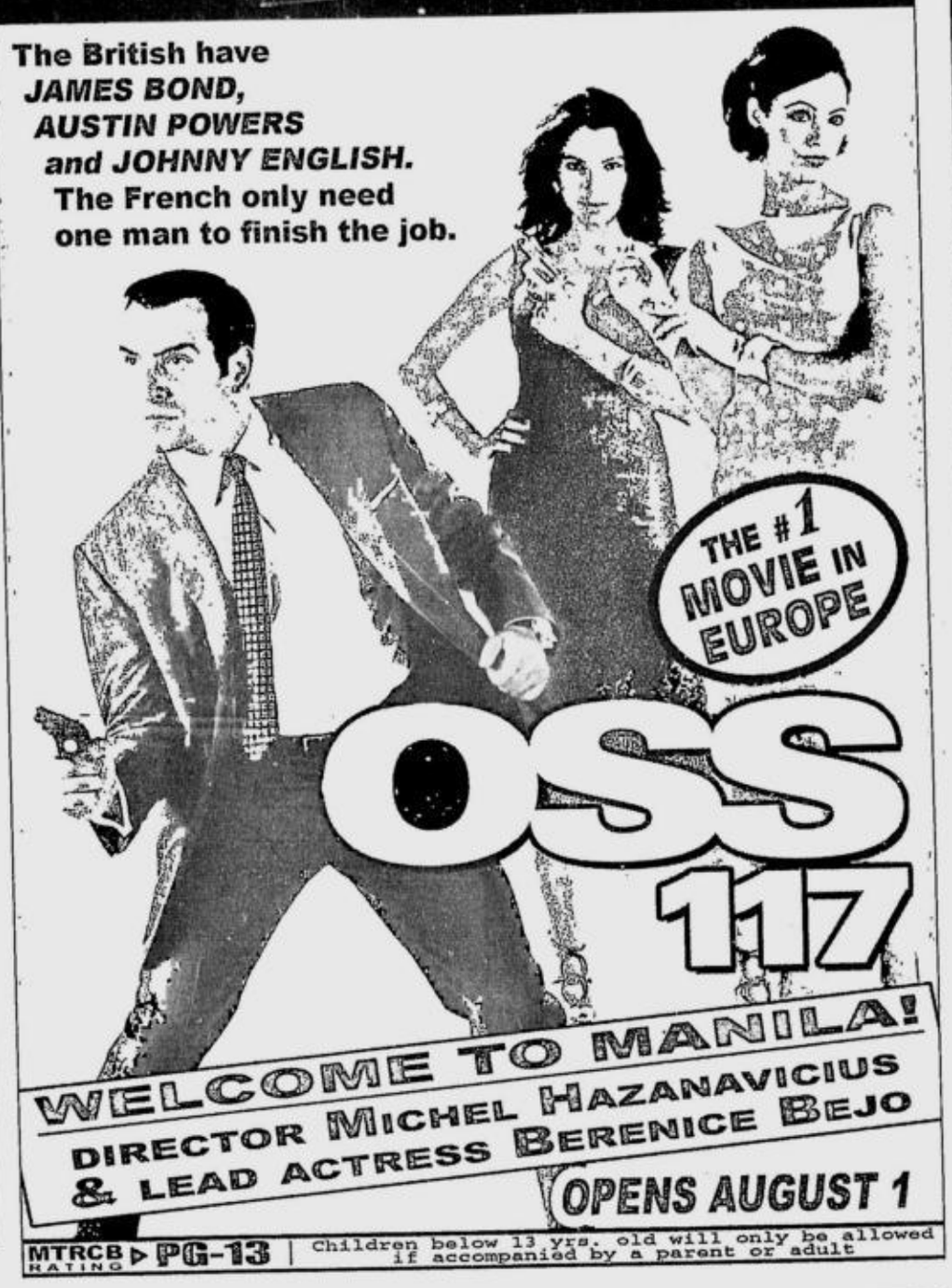
"One of the MOST ENTERTAINING FILM of the year. The premiere night crowd was beyond appreciative, LAUGHING SO HARD at one joke, they very nearly missed the next."
~Kim Voynar, cinematical.com

"It's damned FUNNY. The laughs go from smirks to soda spittters. Joy has been in short supply at the movies lately, and OSS 117 was a SHEER DELIGHT."
~David Poland, MCN Reviews

The British have JAMES BOND, AUSTIN POWERS and JOHNNY ENGLISH. The French only need one man to finish the job.



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1 RATATOUILLE 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 GP
2 THE SIMPSONS 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 11:20 PG-13
3 RATATOUILLE 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50 G
4 HARRY POTTER 1:50, 4:50 G | THE SIMPSONS 8:50, 11:50 PG-13

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HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00	THE SIMPSONS MOVIE – PG 13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	THE SIMPSONS MOVIE – PG13 1:00,3:00,5:00, 7:00,9:00
RATATOUILLE – G 12:50,3:20,5:50,8:20	BLIND DATING – PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	RATATOUILLE – G 12:20,2:50, 5:20,7:50,10:20

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SHANG CINEPLEX
1 RATATOUILLE MTRCB: GP 10:50, 1:30 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
2 THE SIMPSONS MTRCB: PG-13 12:00 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:30
3 HARRY POTTER:5 MTRCB: GP 11:45, 2:40 RATATOUILLE MTRCB: GP 5:50, 8:30
4 THE SIMPSONS MTRCB: PG-13 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 10:00
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HARRY POTTER 5 12:50 / 3:50 / 6:50 / 9:50	TRANSFORMERS 12:50 / 3:50 / 6:50 / 9:50	DIE HARD 4 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50	

MALL 5
1 OUIJA BOARD 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
2 THE SIMPSONS 11:45 / 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45
3 RATATOUILLE 12:15 / 2:55 / 5:35 / 8:15
4 PLANET TERROR 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
5 HARRY POTTER 5 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
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2 (SDDS) RATATOUILLE
3 (DTS) THE SIMPSONS
4 GOLD (DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5
5 GOLD (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
6 GOLD (SDDS) TRANSFORMERS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE
8 (DOLBY) OUIJA
9 (DOLBY) VACANCY
10 (DOLBY) BLIND DATING

Blue Wave Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) OUIJA
2 (DOLBY) THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE
4 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5

SUPER CINERAMA Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 OUIJA
4 BLIND DATING
5 HARRY POTTER - 5

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 OUIJA
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 VACANCY
4 TRANSFORMERS

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 HARRY POTTER - 5

Center Mall Cinema Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
2 RATATOUILLE

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY DS) RATATOUILLE
2 OUIJA
3 (DTS DS) THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TRANSFORMERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE
2 (DOLBY) THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE
4 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
2 (DTS) OUIJA
3 (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 VACANCY
2 OUIJA
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 VACANCY
2 OUIJA
3 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
4 (DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 OUIJA
3 (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 OUIJA

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 28 WEEKS LATER

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DDS) HARRY POTTER - 5
2 KRISANTA
3 PLANET TERROR
4 (DTS) DIE HARD 4.0

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) RATATOUILLE
2 OUIJA
3 (DTS) THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
4 MATAMIS HANGANG DULO
5 HARRY POTTER - 5

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CAPE KARMA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 VACANCY
4 OUIJA

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KARELASYON
2 KAKAIBANG KARISMA

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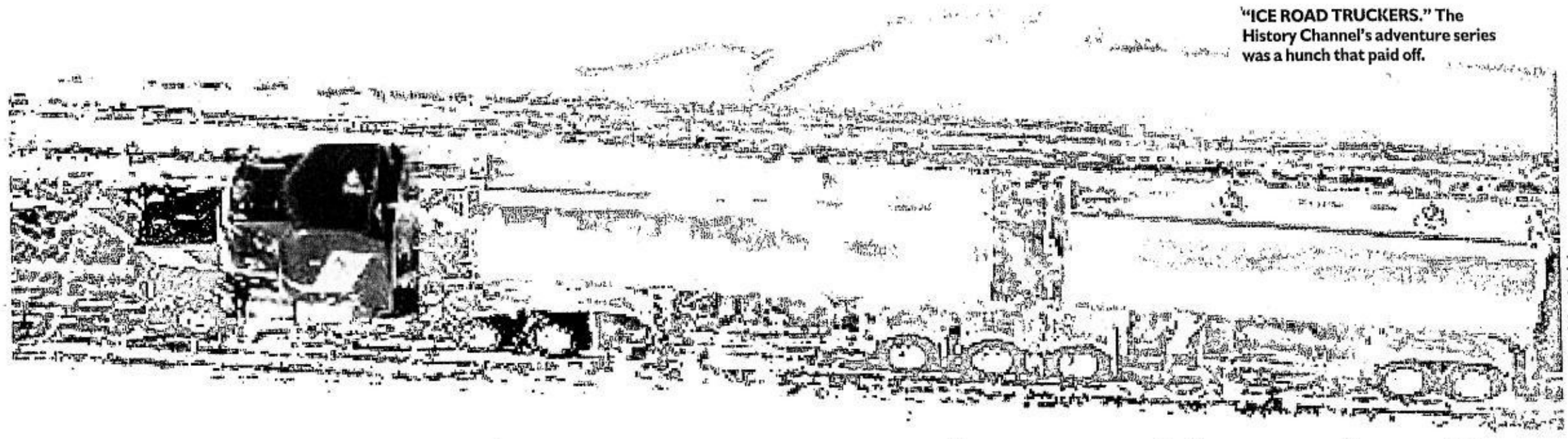


"ICE ROAD TRUCKERS." The History Channel's adventure series was a hunch that paid off.

Survival-style shows capture viewers' imagination

FEW SANE PEOPLE WANT TO VISIT a storm-tossed Bering Sea, the sizzling Sahara Desert, and Canada's Northwest Territories. Experiencing them from a comfortable chair in front of a flat-screen television, however, is all the rage.

Shows about adventure seekers in forbidden lands are among the hottest on cable television. "Deadliest Catch," about crab fishermen off the Alaska coast, is Discovery's most popular show, while "Ice Road Truckers" is setting ratings records for the History Channel. Unhinged survivalist Bear Grylls of Discovery's "Man vs. Wild" is TV's new pinup star.

They all have the romanticism of the wild frontier in common—and spectacular photography, at a time when TV screens are becoming bigger and clearer, enhances the appeal.

Segments

Both "Deadliest Catch" and "Ice Road Truckers" were hunches that paid off. Segments on the fishermen and big-rig drivers who race across frozen lakes were featured briefly on other shows, and executives decided to spin them off into series.

Viewership for the third season of "Deadliest Catch" grew by 20 percent, and June's season finale was seen by nearly four million people—big numbers for basic cable! "It's our 'American Idol,'" disclosed Discovery's Jane Root.

For weeks of backbreaking work, a fisherman can earn a year's worth of wages—or he could die! Nine have drowned in the Bering Sea since Discovery began filming the series, although none on boats where the network was filming.

The series is like an old television Western, Root observed: "It's touched something big and mythical in today's society. The idea of rewards and danger existing in society is fascinating to people."

The stars of "Ice Road Truckers" face a different kind of danger. They need to deliver massive loads of equipment to busy diamond mines up north. And the work needs to be done in the dead of winter, when frozen lakes offer the most direct routes.

They can feel the ice crack and groan as they drive their big rigs over the lakes. If calculations about ice thickness are wrong, the trucks would plunge into the water, which would then freeze over faster than any rescue could be attempted. An idle truck that has broken down puts even more pressure on the ice.

Producers are blessed with indelible characters—the old salts, cocky risk-takers, scared rookies. "I find real people more fascinating than the ones you could make up in Hollywood," mused the History Channel's Nancy Dubuc. "Everyone has someone you either love or love to hate—and that's what you look for."

The 3.4 million people who tuned in to the series' recent premiere have allowed for the biggest bow ever for an original program on the History Channel, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Themes

The network decided to make the series only in December. Producers had to scramble to set things up and get a crew to northern Canada for when the roads opened in January. Also, a reality series about daredevil truckers might seem a strange fit for the History Channel. Dubuc said it touches upon one of history's greatest themes: Exploration.

To Discovery's Root, "Ice Road Truckers" feels a little familiar. "Imitation is the best form of flattery," she quipped. DuBuc acknowledges the similarities to "Deadliest Catch." But, you could argue that the History Channel tapped into this vein first with the series, "Dangerous Missions," she reasoned.

Discovery's "Man vs. Wild" hasn't reached the same heights, but its popularity is growing fast on its second season. The star, Grylls, is a former British Special Air Service soldier whose military career ended when he broke his back jumping out of a helicopter. He looked for other ways to put his survival skills to use.

Each episode begins with Grylls parachuting into a desolate area, carrying only a knife and flint. His goal is to find his way to safety in a couple of days. He offers valuable advice to people who may find themselves lost in the wild, like how to use the sky for directions, or construct an ice cave to survive a night in frigid temperatures. He also goes the extra mile with a "Crocodile Hunter"-like enthusiasm. Worried about a lack of water in one episode, he drinks his urine.

Extra energy

When Grylls fortuitously happens upon a sheep's carcass in Iceland, he cuts off chunks of meat and cleverly boils them in a hot volcanic pool. Fine. Then, he gouges out the sheep's eyeball—for extra energy!

"You bite into it and you feel an explosion of blood and gristle!," he described. "I thought it was going to be something like hardboiled egg."

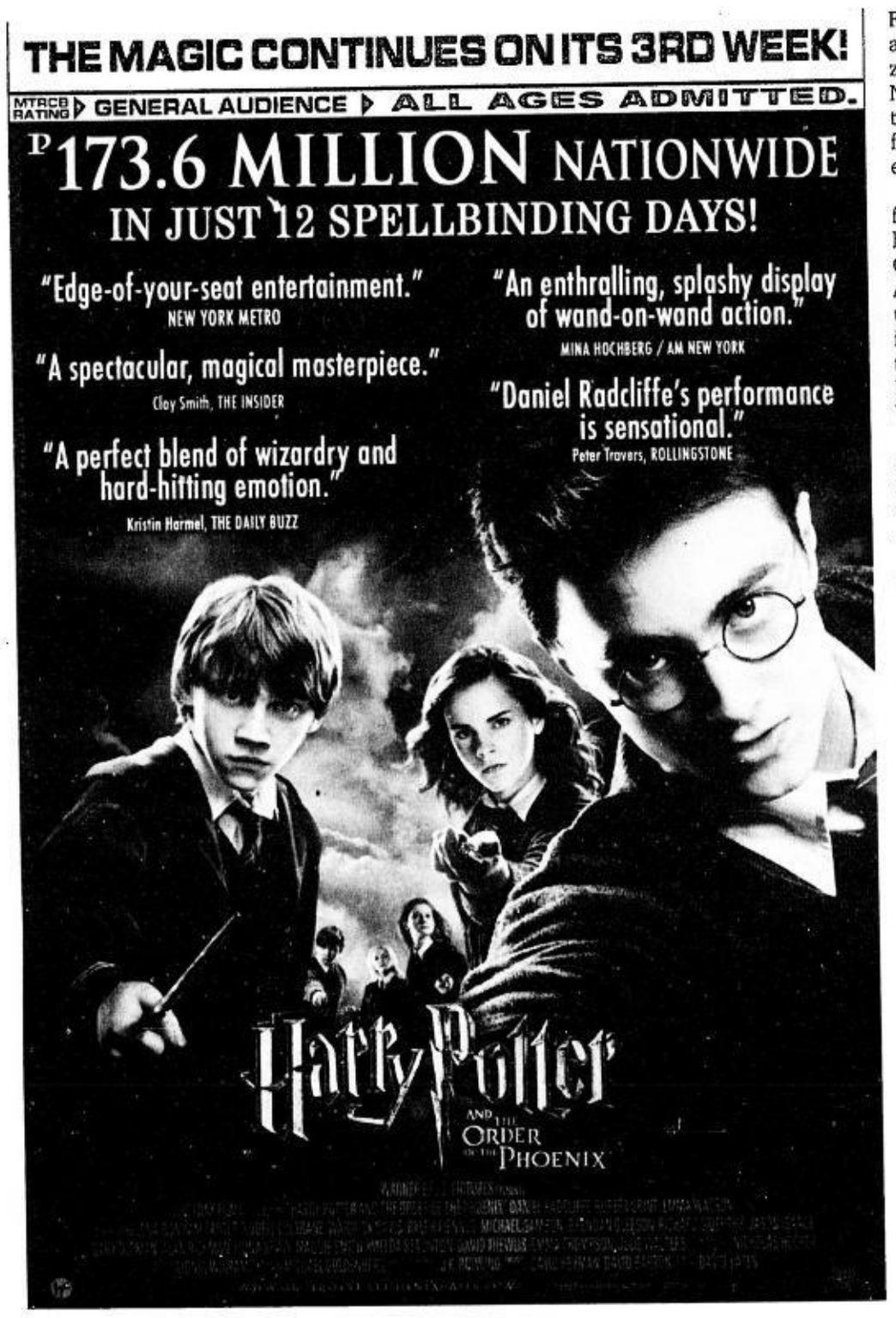
One thing that doesn't ring true about "Man vs. Wild" is the impression created that Grylls is alone against the world—even though it's obvious to a viewer that a camera crew is in tow. Root said the crew is instructed to interfere only in life-or-death situations.

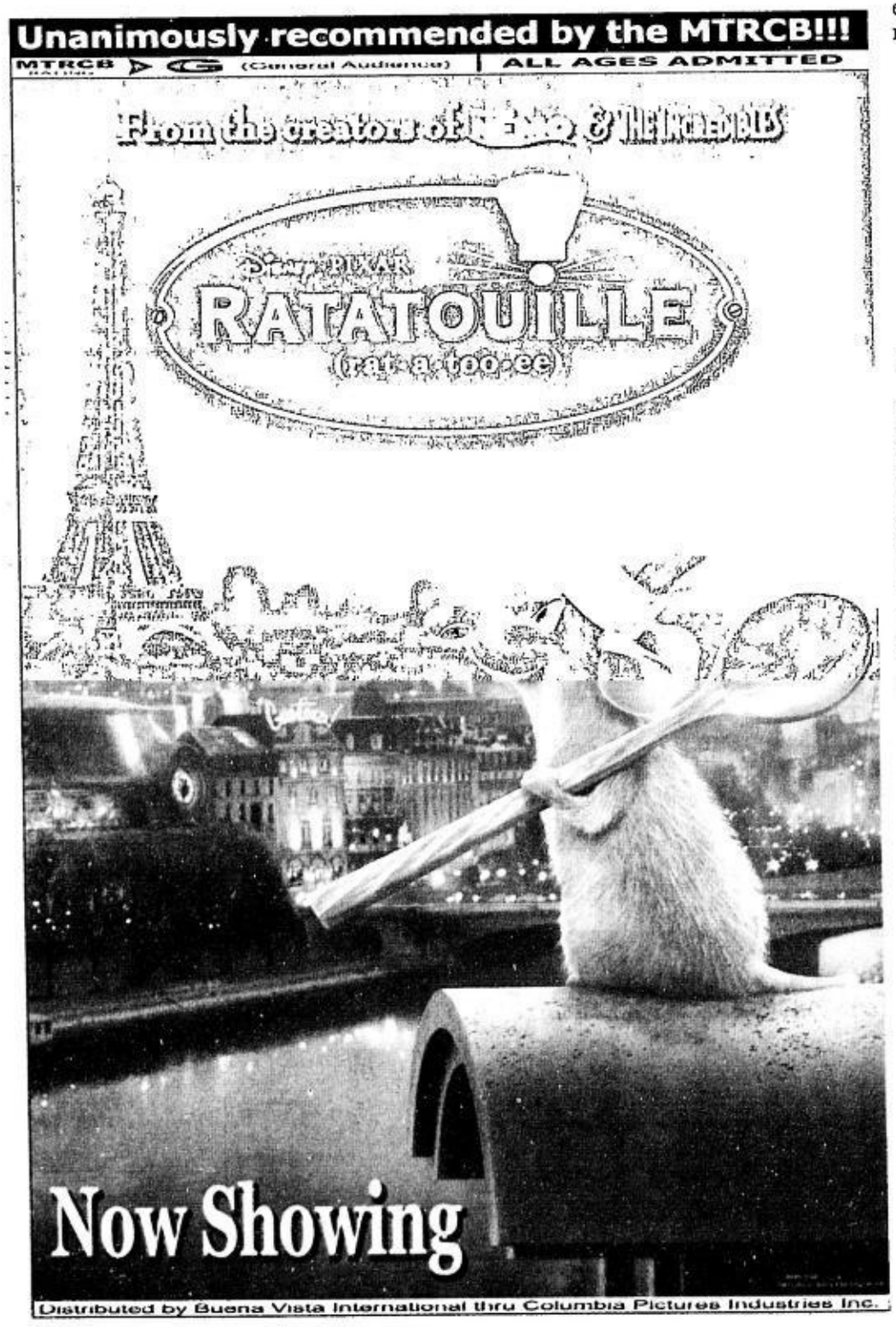
Grylls returned from a taping in the Sahara's searing heat last week to another dangerous land: Beverly Hills, California. You suspect he has other skills that would serve him well there; Root said the women at Discovery's office take notice when Grylls visits.

Piranhas

But, Grylls would rather avoid piranhas in the Amazon. "It's the only thing I've ever been good at in my life," he shared. "I come alive when I'm out there. I'd be terrible in an office!"

The clearest sign of a burgeoning trend is the number of similar series in the works. The History Channel is planning "Tougher in Alaska," about the difficulty of some common jobs there. Discovery is excited about "Last Man Standing," which features six people who compete in sports originated by remote tribes. *AP*





TOPEL LEE crosses over to mainstream movies

By Rica Arevalo

TOPEL LEE BELONGS TO THE NEW generation of indie filmmakers who have crossed over to the mainstream. He has done numerous short films, directed more than 50 music videos and now, he has two upcoming feature-length films: "Ouija" and "My Kuya's Wedding."

His dad, Mon, pushed him to hone his talents in the arts, while his uncle, the irreverent Rox, introduced him to far-out alternative short films at the Mowelfund Film Institute.

Cold feet

Five years ago, Topel went to New York to study filmmaking. While in the Big Apple, he got cold feet when he learned about the astronomical tuition fees. He did not want to burden his family with the high cost of education.

So, to maximize his stay, he applied as an intern in a production company, where he was kept busy performing a variety of menial tasks. He eventually decided to come home.

He was one of the pioneers of the TV show, "Nginiig," where he honed his skill for scaring people. But, the opportunity to make his directorial debut came after he made "Dilim" for CinemaOne.

Then, Regal Films got him to meg the "Yaya" episode of "Shake, Rattle & Roll 8," and GMA Films' first horror venture, "Ouija," written by Aloy Adlawan, landed on his lap.

LEE (left) with "Ouija" lead player, Judy Ann Santos.

In reality, Topel sleeps with the lights on! "I'm effective at scaring people, because I know how to approach fear—and I easily get scared myself," he grins.

Good friends

Working with Judy Ann Santos and Jolina Magdangal in "Ouija" was a happy experience! He shares: "The two actresses are good friends. Jolens would bring dessert, and Juday would cook for us. Most of the time, their scenes required only one take!"

He dreams of doing a historical film. "Movies play a big role in shaping the minds of children.I want to make a film about Gregorio del Pilar. He took the last stand against the Americans. I want to bring patriotism back!"

Classmates

Topel and I were classmates in NUT's intensive directing workshop some years ago. These days, the unassuming and quiet man is happily living his dream!

SATURDAY *Special*

'Foster Child' lives up to its advance notices

SEIKO'S dramatic offering was warmly received at the Cannes film fest this year.

By Nestor U. Torre

SEIKO FILMS' "FOSTER CHILD," DIRECTED by Brilliante Mendoza, is turning out to be one of the most honored films this year. Its impressive success began in a big way when it was officially selected for screening at the prestigious Cannes film fest.

At Cannes, the movie was warmly received by the festival audience, which appreciated its realistic presentation of the touching story of a woman (Cherry Pie Picache) who takes care of orphans before they are adopted by others.

Emotionally stirring

The story is emotionally stirring because the foster mother loves the child she is taking care of as though he were her real son—and yet, she has to eventually give him up.

It hurts when the emotional bond between her and her foster child is severed, so the film's progression may be controlled and low-key, but its denouement is heartrending.

Observers also note that the Cannes audience is partial to slow, reflective and subtle films like "Foster Child," hence the success of its international premiere.

The film's next significant achievement was when it received the signal honor of being chosen as the opening film of the 2007 Cinemalaya film festival at the CCP.

We attended the opening ceremony last July 20, so we were able to view the movie for ourselves, and to discover why it clicked with viewers at Cannes.

Cathartic effect

We appreciated its realistic details, introspective progression, and lack of hysteria and melodrama. Only at film's end, after an American couple adopted her very young foster child, did Cherry Pie's character give vent to the pain she felt, to great, cathartic effect.

Despite the fact that she had few thespic "highlights," we admired the lead actress' focused and felt performance. Through sheer dint of insightful characterization, she "disappeared" into the movie's milieu of squatters, thus enhancing the film with her rigorous and self-effacing sense of verisimilitude.

Also admirable was the spontaneous portrayal of the boy who played the foster child. He was both natural and readily empathetic, and enhanced Mendoza's movie with the innocence and pathos needed for it to go beyond documentary realism and touch the heart.

Meditative

After watching the film, however, we wondered if it would sustain the interest of the mainstream movie audience, since it was often meditative and, sometimes, even painfully slow in its progression.

Cannes viewers may like this sort of reflective pacing, but Filipino moviegoers are used to brisker and more eventful storytelling. Would its makers consider tightening the film before its theatrical run next month? That's for them to decide, of course.

For our part, we wish "Foster Child" well on its Philippine release—because significant and unhysterical movies like it should be encouraged, instead of the loud and livid melodramas and shrill comedies that are par for the course in these in-your-face film times and climes.

PICACHE (LEFT). Rigorous and self-effacing sense of verisimilitude.

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NOW SHOWING

Judy Ann and Jolina's foray into horror pulls no punches

By Rito P. Asilo

"Ouija"
D: Topel Lee
S: Judy Ann Santos, Jolina Magdangal, Iza Calzado, Rhian Ramos

IN JUDY ANN SANTOS AND JOLINA Magdangal's much-anticipated movie reunion, the popular actresses play estranged half-sisters, legal eagle Aileen Lozano and Romina Evangelista, a grade school teacher, respectively.

Together with cousins, spotlight-grabbing stage actress Sandra (Iza Calzado), and Ruth (Rhian Ramos), a medical student, they meet again in their hometown in Camiguin to honor the dying wish of their departed grandmother, Corazon (Anita Linda).

But, when they decide to play Spirit of the Glass, they unwittingly unleash a deadly curse and a demonic presence thirsting for vengeance—and the innocent game becomes a matter of life and death!

In no time, Aileen, Romina and their cousins find themselves running for dear life, but time is running out—and lifeless bodies of friends and family are piling up! How do they break the curse and stop the venomous, serpentine force from claiming more innocent lives and wreaking havoc on theirs? Do they stand a chance?

Regardless of the answer, the moviegoers who watched the movie with us didn't seem to care, because they were so busy shrieking and screaming with fright—in gleeful abandon!

Director Topel Lee effectively shows off an astute aptitude for scaring his audience: Initially, he carefully establishes the appropriate mood and atmosphere of a scene before he rushes in for the kill, then, he pulls no punches and doesn't let up until his viewers cower along with the next unfortunate victim on the screen.

Another plus point comes from the solid camera work of cinematographer, Neil Daza, whose eye for detail and spatial perspective greatly enhances the story's chills and thrills. In the peerless lens of Daza's camera, Judy Ann and company are at their loveliest!

Moreover, the eerie beauty and mystery of a sunken cemetery are wisely put to good use.

On point of performance, the consistently reliable Judy Ann acquits herself credibly in her I'm-a-tough-lady role, but the seasoned actress has been playing this role in many of her recent starrers, so the character is not much of a stretch for her—*except* for her vocal chords, perhaps?

In telling contrast, it's refreshing to see Jolina in a role that doesn't require her to be as kooky as she usually is in her movies. For her part, Ramos is a charming and sympathetic presence.

MAGDANGAL, CALZADO, RAMOS AND SANTOS. Scream their way to box-office heaven in "Ouija."

But, it's Calzado who wins major thespic points for her winsome turn—she plays the showy part to the hilt, but she constantly keeps the scene-stealing role in check and never goes overboard.

The story, however, is another matter. It is dragged down by too much detail, and doesn't allow emotional interactions to simmer between the lead characters.

Similarly, the interesting but unnecessary subplots further weigh down the exposition. Here's another brainbender: In the film's otherwise chilling final sequence on a plane, you don't sense much grief from the survivors—this after their mind-numbing experiences? Come on.

But, Lee's confident directorial hand allows the viewer to go beyond his film's narrative weaknesses—and excesses. The filmmaker deftly takes advantage of his audience's hidden fears: He knows what lurks under the bed, underwater, under the sheets—and beneath *every* nook and cranny!

"The Simpsons Movie"
D: David Silverman
S: Voices of Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright

Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie Simpson successfully translate 18 years' worth of irreverent, ball-busting humor and pop-culture references as they make the big leap to the silver screen.

But, it's interesting to note that after the shocking antics of Borat Zagdiyev and Johnny Knoxville's obnoxious "Jackass" gang in recent film seasons, The Simpsons' cleverly caustic comic style occasionally feels safe, sanitized—and a little dated.

Still, the animated icons manage to entertain and stir: While the movie, aided by hints of nostalgia and comic entitlement, makes a big pitch for the environment and takes digs at religious fundamentalism, it likewise features scenes that amuse and disturb, including the "Titanic"-like sinking of the guys from Green Day after a disgusted mob lynches the stubborn musicians for their ecological advocacy. Another "revealing" scene features—*gasp!*—a full-frontal flash of Bart's, er, shortcomings.

In their charming feature-film romp, the Simpsons (voiced by Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright and Yeardley Smith) and the zany residents of Springfield panic after US President Arnold Schwarzenegger's government seals off the whole county after Homer unwittingly initiates an environmental disaster by polluting the river—with his pet pig's toxic waste!

And, while not all of the production's verbal and visual gags work, the movie nonetheless charms with its familiar appeal, unconventional intelligence, and home-spun comic timing.

If indeed familiarity breeds contempt, the Simpsons' situational humor is, without question, a stubborn exception to the rule!

"THE SIMPSONS." Finally takes the big leap after 18 years!

Home is where... From page H4

I'm forever thankful to Unitel's Tony Gloria for giving me my first break when he acquired the rights to my script, "Pushing 50."

Progressive mind

He was gracious and accommodating, even though I was new in the business. He has a progressive mind—he's open to new ideas and talents. I'm also indebted to direk Joel Lamangan and Roselle Monteverde-Teo of Regal Films for taking on "Blue Moon."

How different is it working on American and Filipino projects?

I have had the experience of doing rewrites on a Hollywood/Fil-Am project. The difference is time. I took seven months to do two dozen rewrites for the Hollywood project, whereas I had less than seven days to rewrite "Blue Moon." In the end, "Blue Moon" proved to be an extremely satisfying and rewarding endeavor.

I was warned that writing for the Philippine market without actually being in Manila would be difficult. Fortunately, the way business is generally done has changed in the last few years because of email and the Internet. My location has not been a problem at all in my dealings with producers.

Storylines

How did the storylines of "Blue Moon," "Sparkle La Rue," and "My Kuya's Wedding" come about?

"Blue Moon's" story was nearly two decades in the making. I was 16 when I left the Philippines for the States, and what came to me was the idea of someone leaving the country and, decades later, beginning his search for his first love.

"Sparkle La Rue" is about a pop music diva *ala* Whitney Houston whose career is fading. She goes bankrupt and ends up getting a job as a drag queen and celebrity impersonator—who's impersonating herself! The idea came to me during a concert in LA where a singer from the '70s was performing, and a friend of mine insisted that we weren't watching the real singer but an impersonator! The idea just clicked: What if we were watching an impersonator—who turned out to be the real singer in disguise?

"My Kuya's Wedding" is a script assignment from Roselle. It's about a jealous young woman who tries to destroy her brother's wedding.

What prompted you to join scriptwriting contests?

I figure that joining contests is the most effective way to get noticed. Landing in the Top 15 of the American Accolades and in the Top 5 of the Blue Cat competition (for "Sparkle La Rue") gave me confidence. There were about 800 entries in American Accolades and 500 in Blue Cat. But, winning the Palanca was the most affirming experience.

What inspires you to write? What brings you fulfillment?

I have so many stories to tell. I'm a very quiet person, so I use writing as an outlet to express my views.

What's your greatest fulfillment as a writer?

It's fulfilling when you create something from nothing. This may sound corny, but I love the idea of reaching even a single person through my work. I once read a blog entry about how "Blue Moon" had moved and changed a teenage girl's view of true love—that felt great!

Hardest part

What is the hardest part of being a writer?

The hardest part is how to get started. But, I always keep in mind a helpful advice I've gotten: "Just write." So, I just write! Someone told me once that there's no such thing as "writer's block"—only laziness. I find this to be true. So, whenever I feel "blocked" or lazy, I simply force myself to write and get the creative juices flowing again. Writing is alternately a lonely and exciting endeavor.

Any tips to aspiring writers?

I'm still learning and improving—and the best advice I can give is to just write every single day! I usually wake up at 4 or 5 in the morning and write for a couple of hours before I start my regular day. It also helps to read as many screenplays as you can get your hands on.

What's next for you?

Now, I'm directing more than writing. I'm honing my directorial skills by making short films, and I'm learning the different aspects of filmmaking. I hope to get the chance to collaborate with Manila's indie filmmakers. The local indie scene seems so exciting from what I've been reading. I'd love to write for our talented indie directors!

Showing too much skin on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

SINCE KIDS ARE WATCHING PRACTIcally all the time, television is supposed to be a "For General Patronage" medium. This means that, except for the late-late hours, when most children are presumable asleep, TV is required to dispense viewing fare that's psychologically safe for young viewers to watch.

In other words, minimal violence and sexual references, no profanity or negative values, and no nudity. If you're a regular viewer, however, you know that the rule is observed more in the breach than in the compliance.

Wholesome entertainment

The major role-breakers are led by noontime variety shows. In the days of "Student Canteen," they dispensed wholesome entertainment that the entire family could enjoy.

These days, however, they're loud and feature money-oriented games, hosts who deliver "naughty" patter, and sexy dancers who cavort around in tiny costumes that would give a baby a cold.

What's going on? Competition for top ratings on TV has never been as stiff, so major networks are doing everything to appeal to the least common denominator of viewers' preferences—and, when you put it that way, that's *really* low.

Sex and nudity at noontime are major no-no's, of course—not only because kids are watching, but also because some adults don't want to be exposed to all that skin so early in the day.

But, noontime shows keep dishing them out in heaping dollops because other viewers get turned on by them—yes, at noontime, would you believe?

Once in a while, a show gets reprimanded for thus exceeding the bounds of propriety, whereupon the hosts are less offensive and the sexy dancers wear more clothes. After some weeks, however, they're back to (monkey) business as usual.

Instructive

Some recent excesses are instructive: One time, a singing star on the wrong side of 30 decided to spice up her image by performing a song number in a revealing costume. Right after she performed, however, she put a jacket on and was interviewed in that more covered state.

Our question: Why did the singer perform in the shockingly skimpy costume, *then* cover it up? Clearly, she realized that she had gone too far and had shown too much. Or, was she making a distinction between herself as a performer and herself as a person? Put that in your pipe and smoke it.

More recently, a female starlet hosted an event "honoring" the country's sexiest women—and she wore the skimpiest outfit of them all!

In other words, the emcee upstaged the sexy "honorees" and made them look relatively like old maids. Was that cricket?

Coverage

Even more tellingly, when the event was covered by one channel, the "exceedingly revealed" emcee was shown in her full glory. But, on another channel's coverage, shots of her were shown blurred, so as not to offend viewers.

Clearly, the second channel had correctly perceived the excess and had kept viewers' best interests in mind by blurring its coverage. Wish we could say the same for the first channel.

As for the female emcee in question, she won points with sex-oriented viewers, but lost points with perhaps even more viewers, who feel that there should be a time and place for everything. And she definitely ended up on the bad side of all those sexy women she had upstaged!

Mitch Valdes makes a clean ... From page H4

On Cinemax today at 7:55 a.m., "Dog Day Afternoon." Tomorrow at 8:15 a.m., "To Be the Best." July 30 at 7:30 a.m., "East of Eden." July 31 at 8 a.m., "Battle of the Bulge." Aug. 1 at 11 a.m., "The Perfect Daughter." Aug. 2 at 1:45 p.m., "Assault on Precinct 13." Aug. 3 at 8:05 a.m., "Rebel Without A Cause."

'Cerrudo: Classico'

Classical balladeer Bo Cerrudo topbills the "Classico: Cerrudo" concert series for the third year at the Teatrino in Greenhills starting Aug. 2. This year's show, "Songs from Stage and Screen," will also be performed on Aug. 8 for the Parenting Foundation of the Philippines, Aug. 15 (Elenita Santos), Aug. 22 (National Philharmonic Orchestra Foundation), and Aug. 30 (Carewell Community Foundation). Freddie Santos directs, and Rodel Colmenar conducts a 20-piece ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. Call 722-4532 loc. 116.

PASCUAL (RIGHT). Made the day even more special for friends and fans at Krispy Kreme-Greenhills' opening.

'Pilipinas Circa 1907' at CCP

Tanghalang Pilipino presents its 21st season opener, Nicanor Tiongson's sarswela, "Pilipinas Circa 1907," from Aug. 10 to Sept. 2 at CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. Dennis Marasigan directs a talented cast led by Arnold Reyes, Miguel Castro, Ana Feleo, Lani Mabilangan-Ligot and Jean Judith Javier. Call 832-3661 or 891-9999.

'Style Eye Catchers Model Search'

Get ready for the hottest and hippest model search in town as Style magazine gears up for the Grand Finals of its "Style Eye Catchers Model Search, Season One" at Glorietta 3 Park on Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. Josh Santos directs 20 of the country's most promising *fashionistas*, vying for the top plum. Call 891-1111 or 0917 866-1179.

'621,987 Taon ng Paglimot' at UP

UP Dulaang Laboratoryo presents Arlo de Guzman's provocative play, "621,987 Taon ng Paglimot," from Sept. 5 to 8 at Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan, Faculty Center, UP Diliman. Call Bryan Viray at 0927 827-4680.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Jade Castro develops stronger sense of control in filmmaking

By Ronald G. Mangubat

WRITER JADE CASTRO HAS TRIED his hand at most aspects of film and TV production—from producing and editing music videos and directing a lifestyle show on Studio 23 to being an animator, videographer, sound-man and musical scorer in audio-visual presentations. It's only this year that he is able to sink his teeth into directing a full-length film.

CASTRO (LEFT, WITH FELEO AND ABALOS): A director should relay a significant message.

Idea

"Endo" (short for End of Contract), UFO Pictures' entry to this year's Cinemalaya film fest (starring Jason Abalos and Ina Feleo), is Castro's brainchild.

"UFO Pictures thought of making a follow-up to its first two movie ventures, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and "Sarong Banggi," the 28-year-old *cum laude* graduate of UP's film school recalls. "When I threw the idea of a feature about employees who have no security of tenure, my colleagues liked it and said I should write and direct the movie myself."

It took a year for Castro and his friends to research and develop the material. After 13 drafts, the first-time director focused his energy on translating his screenplay to the big screen.

Sleepless nights

After sleepless nights of supervising the post-production aspect of his first film, Castro says the rough cut of "Endo" pleased him. He enthuses, "*Ang sarap palang mag*-direct, especially when you believe in your story. I told myself, I won't give up writing, but directing is something I wouldn't mind doing again!" Excerpts from our interview:

Where did you get the idea for "Endo?"

I was in a department store in Makati one day when I saw a group of employees holding a labor strike. I chatted with them and saw the sad plight of labor in our country. *Walang* security of tenure, so laborers keep hopping from one job to another. When we developed the story, we gave it a more human touch. Now, it's not just about dead-end jobs, it's also about dead-end relationships.

How did you prepare for your first full-length feature?

Initially, I thought about the film's over-all look. I watched movies that served as pegs. I had long discussions with my cinematographer. *Yung* technical aspects, I adapted the academic way of doing them. I studied the script, the emotional continuity, the intensity. I drew the storyboard for some scenes, and made a shot list.

Were you nervous on the first day of shooting?

Hindi naman. But, it took me a lot of time to shoot the first sequences because I followed the shot list. During the latter part of the day, when our producers were already telling me to speed it up (because film equipment rental was already escalating), *medyo kinabahan na ako (laughs).*

Leading man

Why did you choose Jason Abalos as your leading man?

He's perfect for the role! We wanted someone who was twentysomething, handsome but ordinary-looking—*kailangang* believable na *maging* contractual employee. And Jason has good acting chops. His role requires a lot of emotional shifts. What's nice about him is that his acting ability is not trained. There's a certain rawness about him that's almost magical!

Did you tell your actors what to do, or did you just let them be?

I tried both approaches and found them equally effective.

Since you wrote the script yourself, was your vision realized?

Not everything. We had to make some compromises because of logistical problems along the way. We had to cut some scenes, and we didn't have the luxury of time because we had a tight schedule to follow.

How did you prepare for the sexy scenes?

I called up my friend, Adolf Alix, and asked him how he directed the love scene in "Donsol." He said: 'I explained the scene to my actors and said, go!' We blocked and choreographed them.

What phase of the production did you enjoy most?

I enjoyed everything—from writing and studying the script to doing ocular inspection of locations and post-production. I sank my teeth into all those phases.

Something new

Did you discover something new about yourself when you were doing the film?

May pagka-slacker *ako, e.* I tend to just let things be. *'Pag* director *ka, hindi pwedeng ganoon!* I realized that having a stronger sense of control is one area that I need to develop.

What kind of director are you?

I'd like to believe that I'm a no-nonsense and honest director. I don't want to make a film for self-aggrandizement. A director has to have a higher purpose and should relay a significant message.

What would you want the audience to feel after watching "Endo"?

I hope they will be able to reflect about what the film is trying to say. I don't want them to intellectualize too much because the movie is basically a love story. I want them to feel good after the screening!

Hollywood perpetuates beauty, mystery of Hong Kong

By Behn Cervantes

HONG KONG HAS ALWAYS INtrigued the curious world because the Crown Colony, as it was known decades ago, is a fine blend of Oriental mystery and English discipline. It's also known for its robust economy.

Breathtaking

In the past, the busy Hong Kong harbor was breathtaking. It was situated between the rolling hills and mountains of both Hong Kong and Kowloon islands.

The primly dressed British nationals were a stark contrast to its *cheongsam*-clad Oriental dolls and the shoeless rickshaw men with long pigtails. The city was a cosmopolitan metropolis, but was also infested by low life and drugs.

Naturally, Hollywood was interested in Hong Kong because of the drama and human conflict inherent in such a city: The "Fu Manchu" and "Charlie Chan" series, for example, depicted all types of gangsters and other dangerous stereotypes.

However, in due time and with education, the world rethought its attitude about China and Hong Kong. After all, people had to contend with Mao Tse Tung and Chou En Lai, two of the region's leaders.

Not long after came Bruce Lee and, later, Jackie Chan, who opened doors for Chinese martial arts films.

But, before those two martial arts superstars invaded Hollywood, Tinseltown was first drawn to East-West interracial romantic stories: In the mid-'50s, 20th Century Fox decided to fly Academy Award winners, Jennifer Jones and William Holden, to Hong Kong to portray Eurasian Han Suyin and her American journalist lover, respectively, in "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing."

Glamorous pair

Not only did director King Vidor capture the busy life of the Crown Colony, but he also shot the glamorous pair in the city's scenic spots. This visual treat was further enhanced by the movie's theme song—one of the biggest hit songs of that period!

The success of the film resulted in still another William Holden vehicle, "The World of Suzie Wong," which chronicled the love affair of a Wan Chai prostitute and an American journalist. Hollywood made much of the film's pretty discovery, Nancy Kwan, who was a ballet student in London.

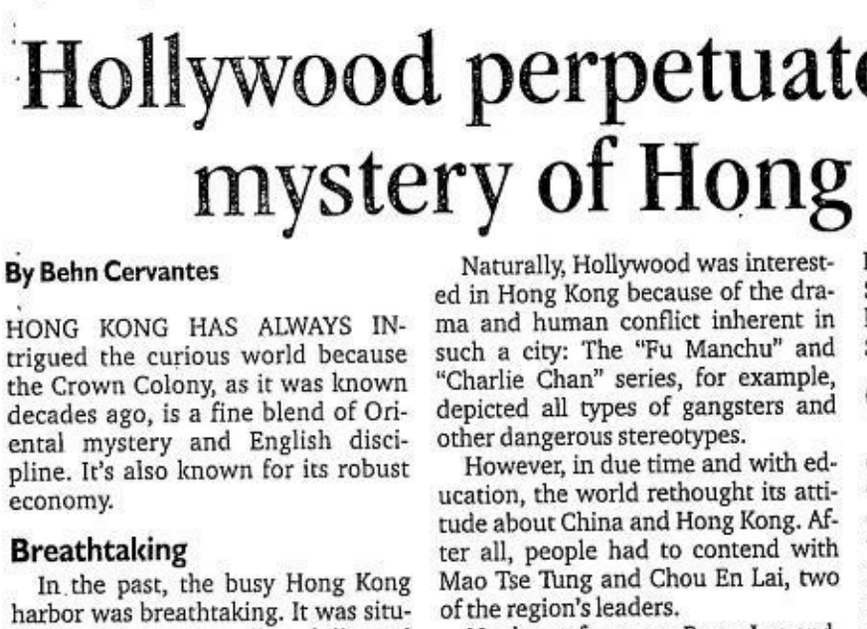
Excellent dancer

The petite but shapely Eurasian actress was an excellent dancer and a luminous screen presence. Soon, she starred in big films that included the film version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Flower Drum Song."

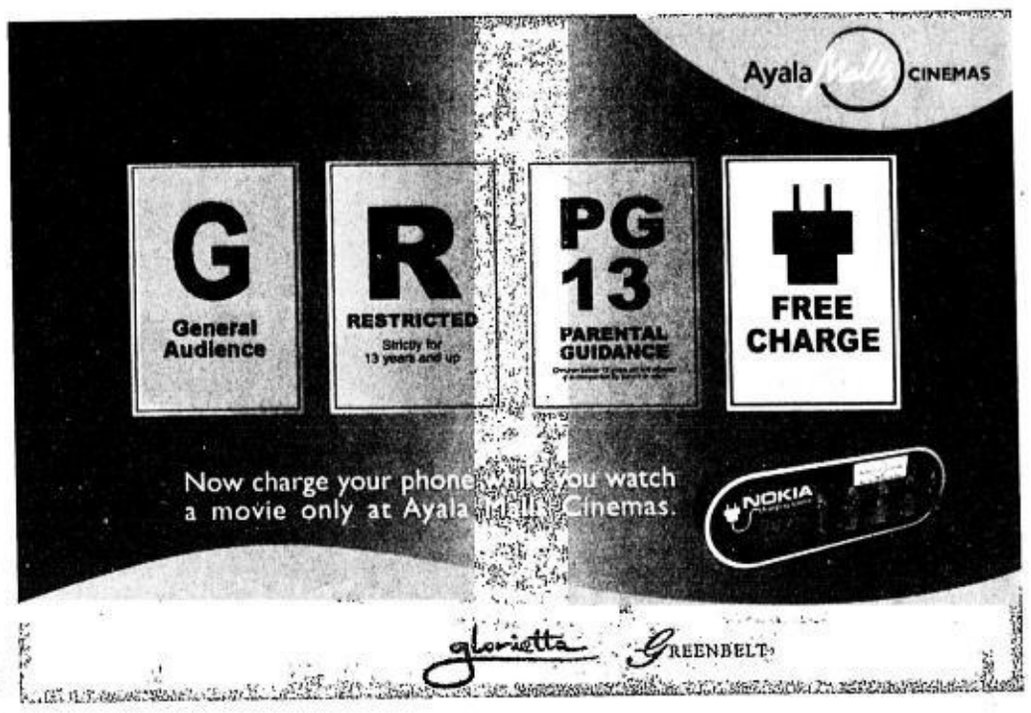
Those productions were followed by B movies that took advantage of Hong Kong's scenic spots.

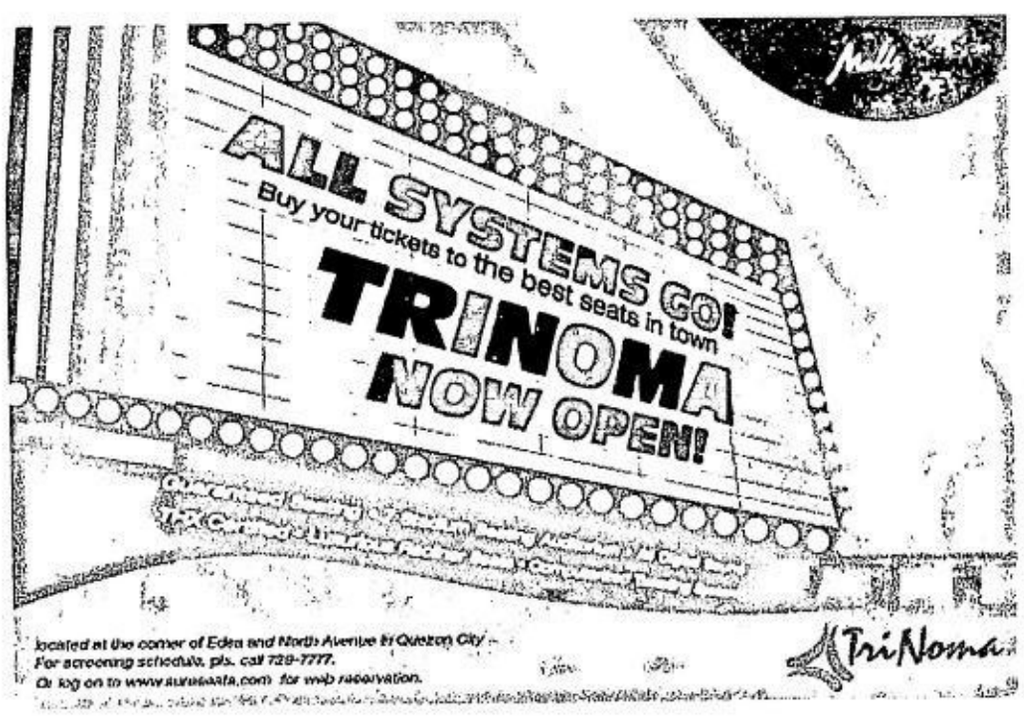
These days, Hollywood continues to exploit the exotic charms—and cheap labor—that make the city a prime tourist destination.

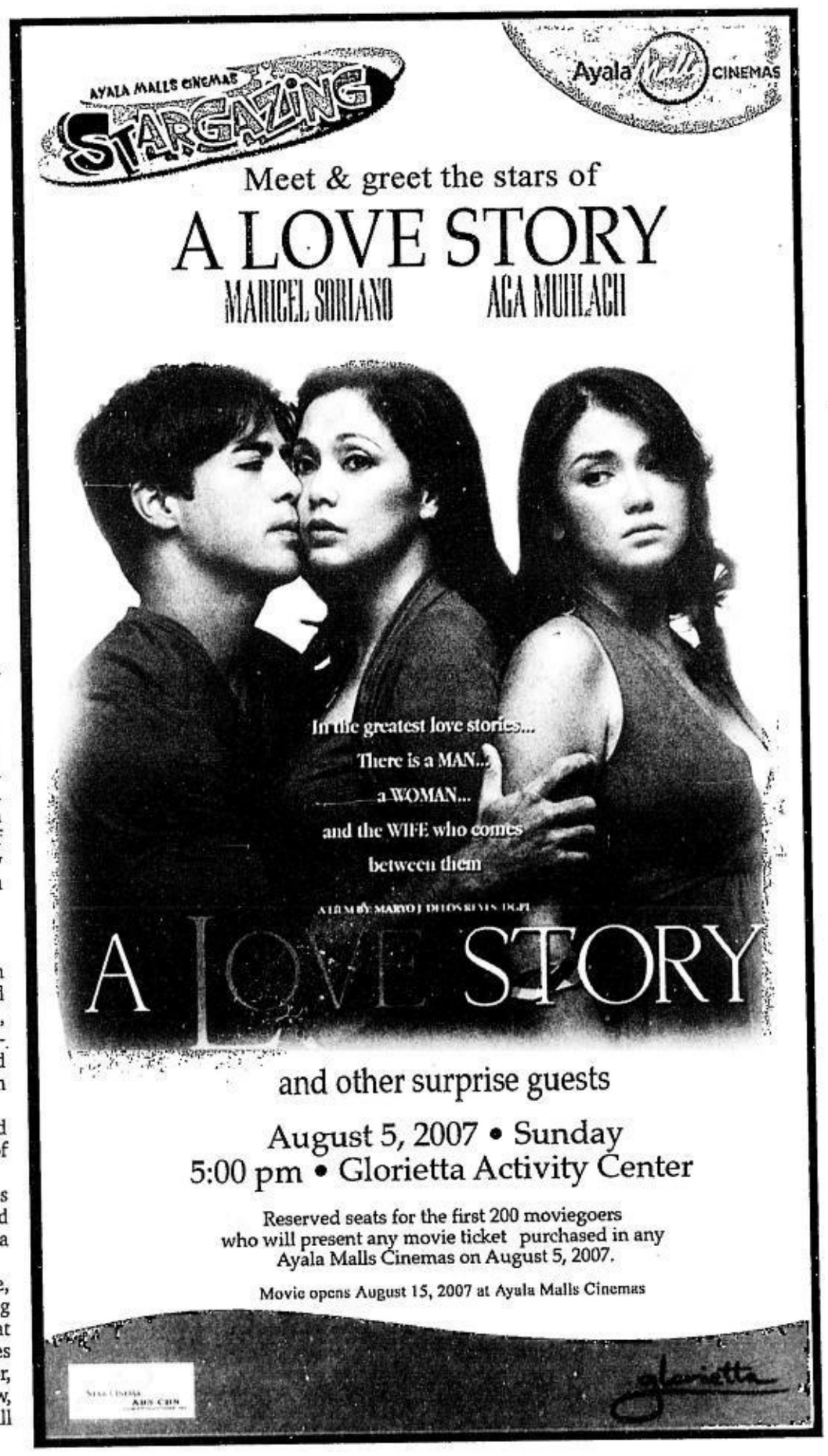
Those who can't afford the air fare, expensive hotel rooms, and Hong Kong's world-famous cuisine can at least watch those timeless movies that allow them to cross the Harbor, go to The Peak, jump on a rickshaw, pig out in a restaurant, and shop till they drop!



KWAN. Played a Hong Kong prostitute in "The World of Suzie Wong" opposite William Holden.







Mitch Valdes makes a clean breast of it

TODAY, AND ON AUG. 4 AND 11, MITCH Valdes returns to the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila to regale delighted patrons with her new act, "The B(R)rest of Mitch Valdes." Similarly livewire guests include Boy Camara, Noni Buencamino, Nanette Inventor and Cherie Gil. Call 750-8888.

ILLUSTRATION BY L.A. MISTADES

VALDES. Returns to the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila today and on Aug. 4 and 11.

MONTAGE

Awesome August on Nickelodeon

Nickelodoen ushers in the viewing month of August on a high note with the new season of "Drake and Josh." See how the two stepbrothers struggle with challenges related to revenge, love, magic and Hollywood (don't miss the special appearance of queen of talk, Oprah Winfrey), Monday to Friday at 7:30 p.m., starting Aug. 6.

At 9 p.m. on the same day, groove to the new twists on "Zoey 101." Beginning Aug. 10, Friday to Sunday at 9 p.m., "Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide" has best friends, Cookie and Moze, dispensing humorous tips on how to handle adolescent blues.

Aug. 9 at 9 a.m. and noontime, "Miss Spider Sunny Patch Friends Special" tells the disarming tale of a beetle who thinks she's a princess and goes on a magical journey to investigate her royal "heritage."

Plus: "Jimmy Neutron" at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. And, on Aug. 31, "Go, Diego, Go" at 1p.m., and "Skyland" at 6:30 p.m. For details, visit www.nicksplat.com.

Ysabella's chicken

Life imitates TV "art": A delicious chicken dish featured on the new ABS-CBN soap, "Ysabella," starring Judy Ann Santos, is now on the menu of all Bacolod Chicken Inasal restos. Ysabella's chicken is lightly fried and has a distinct flavor that comes from herbs and spices. Available at branches at SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Edsa Central, Glorietta 4, Paseo Center, Jupiter st., Robinsons Place Manila, Metrowalk, Greenhills, SM Sta. Mesa, QC Memorial Circle and Trinoma.

'Man vs Wild'

Discovery Channel's new series, "Man vs. Wild," features real-life stories that show viewers how to survive the toughest environments on earth—jungles, deserts, uninhabited islands and inhospitable mountain peaks. Catch remaining episodes Mondays at 10 p.m., with encores on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Also on Discovery, "Building the Future" looks at ingenuous techniques that have been devised to survive the forces of nature. From July 30 at 9 p.m. through Aug. 2 (four episodes). Solutions include river water turbines, methane hydrate, nuclear fusion, solar towers, wind turbines, river barriers, flood tunnels, desalinization plants and desert tunnels.

Bamboo

Bamboo performs at the MATS Gym in Davao City tonight on the 37th anniversary of the MATS College of Technology and Mindanao Medical Foundation College. The free concert starts at 6:30 p.m.

Krispy Kreme-Greenhills

The opening of the Krispy Kreme drive-thru store at the Greenhills Shopping Center was gleaming with more than just the famous Original Glazed daoughnuts, as stars added glitz to the fave, new hangout: Piolo Pascual performed opening day duties, and Phoemela Baranda and Bubbles Paraiso welcomed guests like Megan Young, Empress Schuck, John Wayne Sace, Evelong Dee, Angelo Patrimonio, Aiza Seguerra, Geoff Eigenmann, Mo Twister, Paul Henson and Mario Dumawal. Aside from doughnuts, Krispy Kreme offers a wide selection of coffee beverages.

"JIMMY NEUTRON." Viewing treat on popular children's network.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 9 p.m., "The Truman Show," Tomorrow at 9 a.m., "Syriana." July 30 at 10:15 a.m., "The Odd Couple." July 31 at 5 p.m., "War of the Worlds." Aug. 1 at 11 p.m., "In the Name of the Father." Aug. 2 at 10 a.m., "The Education of Little Tree." Aug. 3 at noon, "Stand by Me."

MITCH/ H2

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EVENT PROGRAMME

Celebrity Bridal & Debut Gowns Exhibit (Lobby, July 29 – August 5, 2007)

Talks by Style Experts (July 29 – 30, 2007)
Debut Style Forecast • Of Dreams and Wedding Gowns • Menu Planning: A Taste of Entertaining
Budgeting for Style: The Practical Plan • Entertainment Protocol

JET SET SOIREE: Style Trends (Grand Ballroom, 8:00 PM, July 30, 2007)
A show by fashion students of the College of St. Benilde

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CALL 8159711.

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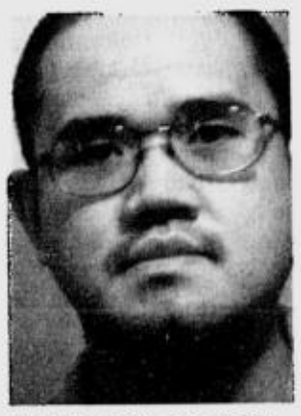
Home is where Allan Tijamo's heart is

By Rica Arevalo

US-BASED SCREENWRITER Allan Tijamo is on top of the world these days. At age 34, he entered the local movie industry without much sweat. He wrote the acclaimed film, "Blue Moon," based on his Palanca winning script, then placed second in the romantic-comedy category at the American Accolades' Fifth Annual Scriptwriting Competition for "Sparkle La Rue."



TIJAMO. Directing is his first love.

Tijamo is also a consistent finalist in Star Cinema and Film Development Foundation scriptwriting contests. His latest work is Topel Lee's upcoming film, "My Kuya's Wedding." For the young writer, home is where the heart is. Excerpts from our interview:

What drove you to go into screenwriting?

I'm fortunate to have parents who allow me to pursue things that I want to do. As I was growing up, my mother took me to a lot of Tagalog films—that's how my love for the movies started.

Resources

My first love is directing, but not having the resources to make movies steered me into writing because I needed to tell my stories in any way possible. Now, I view screenwriting as something that goes hand in hand with directing.

Who are the directors you admire?

I'm a big fan of directors who also write. My three writer-director idols are James L. Brooks, Woody Allen and Jose Javier Reyes. They write witty, heartwarming scripts about relationships, which is a subject I'm most interested about. "Broadcast News," "Terms of Endearment," "Annie Hall," "Hannah and Her Sisters," "Radio Romance," and "May Minamahal" are some of my favorites.

I also love the early Danny Zialcita movies like "Langis at Tubig," "Nagalit ang Buwan sa Haba ng Gabi," and "Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan?" I'm not sure if he wrote the scripts for those, but the dialogue in his films has a certain rhythm and spark that you seldom hear in local movies.

How did you start your career as a screenwriter?

I joined contests and submitted my scripts to whomever I could give them to.

HOME/ H2

Protect your home items while in storage

YOUR HOME FURNISHINGS, WARES and appliances have been designed to last. And as long as they're where they're supposed to be-doing what they're supposed to do-they'll manage themselves fine. But comes the time when you have to move things and put them in storage is when problems can arise.

Here are a few handy tips courtesy of www.storageking.co.uk on how to store household items properly, so they won't lessen in value and function while you're not using them, or when you're still trying to figure out where to have them placed in a newly moved-in house.

First, the usual basic storage materials needed are: cartons, paper, tape, bubble-wrap, and plastic covers.

When filling cartons with items, be sure to fill to capacity. Partially full or bulging cartons may tip or collapse. Heavy items like books or tools should be packed in small cartons so they are easy to handle. And speaking of books, they should be packed flat, not on their spines. Then, when cartons are neatly packed, label them. Labeling cartons makes the search for items-and unpacking-much easier.

Storing white items

Refrigerators, freezers and other white goods should be thoroughly dry and clean before storing. While in storage, the door must be slightly open. Deodorizers such as charcoal can be placed inside refs or freezers to maintain freshness. Don't place items inside refs or freezers as the shelves and linings can be easily marked and damaged.

Structural integrity

Empty the contents of wardrobes, drawers and cupboards to protect the shelving and structure of these items. Clothing and personal goods should be packed in strong secure cartons with naphthalene, mothballs or similar products to protect and maintain their condition. If possible, remove the legs from items of furniture such as bed bases and tables to avoid damage and save space. Vacuum food crumbs from lounges to prevent attracting vermin.

Protecting breakables

Place a layer of packing inside the bottom and top of cartons containing breakables. Protect fragile items by wrapping them individually in packing paper (newsprint can be messy and possibly stain). Nest cups and bowls, stand plates, saucers, platters, casseroles on their edges. Fill any gaps in the cartons with packing such as scrunched paper or linen. This will keep your fragile items well protected and prevent them from moving around in the cartons whilst in transit. Label all cartons containing fragile items and avoid storing heavy items on the top of these cartons.

Mirrors, windows, paintings

These items should be protected by packing material such as bubble-wrap or in a flat-pack carton. Store them standing on their edges in an upright position (not lying flat).

Metals

Wrapping silver in non-acid tissue paper or plastic bags can help reduce tarnishing. Wipe chrome or cast iron with a little machine oil to help retard rust.

Electrical appliances

Your electrical equipment is very delicate and sensitive and should be handled with care. The original boxes are ideal to repack in. However, wrapping items individually in bubble-wrap, packing them in cartons, and sealing the top will offer protection for your electrical items. Remember to pack out any gaps in the cartons. For battery-operated appliances, it is recommended that you remove the batteries to avoid damage from leaking batteries.

Computers

Computers, like your other electrical items, need special care. The original boxes are highly recommended for packing. However, bubble-wrap and good quality packing cartons will do the job. Remember to use some packing or linen in the bottom and top of cartons. This provides extra protection to the contents. Pack out any gaps. Most modern computers have "self parking heads". If you are unsure about your computer, refer to the manufacturer's manual, or consult your retailer, especially if storing for longer than six months.

Machineries

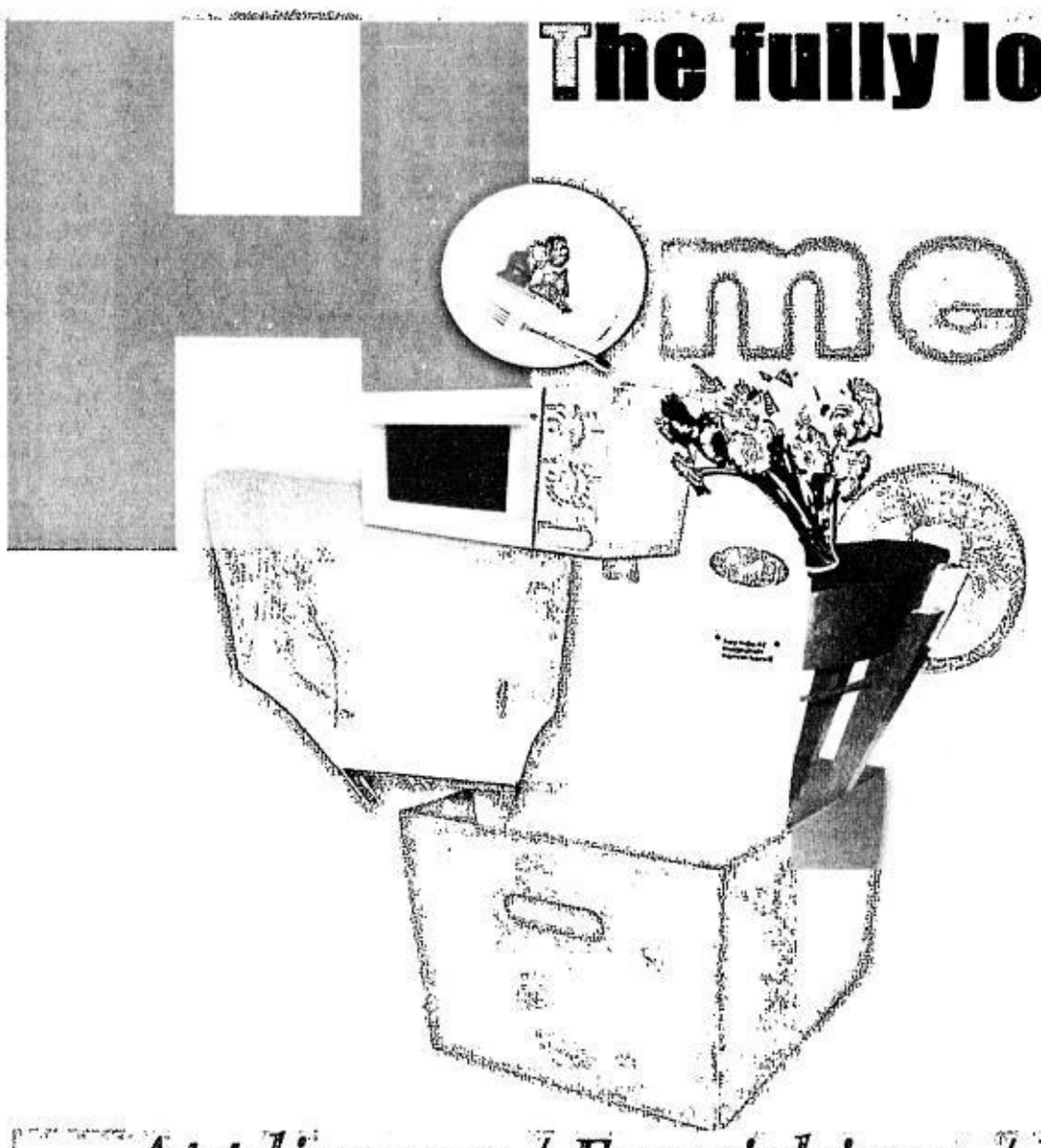
Drain fuel and oil from all machinery. This reduces the risk of leakage, spillage and damage to other goods in your space. Fuel and oil left in machinery are also a fire hazard.

Planning storage space

As a general rule, place large, heavy items that you can stack upon at the rear of the unit. Then work forwards and upwards with lighter, fragile items. Place those items that you may need to access often in the front of the unit. Depending on the goods you have stored, you may need to allow for walk ways. Packing in professional storage cartons will make the stowing and unpacking easier and safe, saving you time and worry. Professional packing and the storage accessories will provide your goods with the preparation they need for storage and maintain their condition for the term of storage.

What not to store

Any goods that are illegal, stolen, flammable, explosive, environmentally harmful, perishable or are a risk to the property of any person (such as chlorine, acid, paint and petrol) should not be stored.



Sony boosts HD line-up

SONY WELCOMES THE RAINY season with a shower of new high definition (HD) products that are sure to delight HD enthusiasts all over the country. From content creation, editing, viewing and printing, Sony has a variety of HD models that will definitely satisfy even the most fastidious consumers.

Sony, the pioneer and leader in HD, and the only brand that offers the complete line-up of HD products, is also the only brand that underlines the practicality of having products from various categories working together to form seamless integrations they call the Sony HD Solutions. "The Sony HD Solutions primarily addresses the absence of HD broadcast in the Philippines. We are expecting this development to take place seven to eight years from now, but while it is not here yet, we cannot just sit still and let our consumers be left behind while the rest of the world is already enjoying enhanced audio and visual entertainment that HD provides," Arnold Balao, Sony deputy director for HAV marketing, said.

Last March, Sony launched the first phase of its Sony HD World campaign, featuring various Sony solutions that let Filipinos have an early taste of the HD experience. Now on its Sony HD World: The Next Step, Sony introduces yet more exciting and innovative products that affirms Sony's undeniably superiority when it comes to HD. "Only Sony can offer the complete solution of snap, record, print and view in full high definition. And to further satisfy our consumers' gusto for full-HD entertainment, we are finally launching Sony's first Blu-ray player in the country. Now, their HD experience is no longer limited to photos and videos taken using their HD Cyber-shot or HD Handycam. We're taking their full-HD satisfaction to the movies," Balao added.

1st Blu-ray player

The long wait is over. The much-awaited Sony Blu-ray Player has finally reached Philippine shores, expected to enrich Filipinos' movie-viewing pleasures at home. To the delight of home entertainment enthusiasts, the Blu-ray player (BDP-S1E) streams full high-definition movies with Blu-ray discs playback and standard DVDs through HDMI. The Blu-ray player is capable of displaying 1920 x 1080 progressive high-definition video, the highest resolution high-definition signal in the current market via HDMI connection to bring real-life quality images to homes. It has a capability of an output signal at 24 frames per second to produce film-like quality images. Offering true compressed multi-channel linear PCM digital audio output via HDMI, this Blu-ray player can deliver the ultimate surround sound when connected to a suitable receiver capable of producing uncompressed 7.1 channel surround sound.

"The introduction of the BDP-S1E Blu-ray player marks the beginning of new generation home entertainment. Backed up strong collaborations with software developers and boasting an ever growing collection of Blu-ray disc titles readily available to consumers, it is indeed

SONY/12

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Exhibit Schedule:
MANILA: Gateway Mall - July 13-18 - Robinson Ermita - July 20-26 - Market Market - Aug 6-12 - Glorietta - Aug 15-22 - Alabang Town Center- Aug 24-30 - Trinoma Mall - Sept 10-16 - SM Megamall - Sept 24-30
LUZON: CSI San Fernando La Union Mall- Aug 3-5 - CSI Mall Dagupan - Aug 29-Sept 4 - Paseo Real Mall -Tuguegarao - Sept 7-9 - LCC Mall- Naga - Sept 7-14 - SM Clark - July 30 - Aug 5 - SM Dasmariñas - Aug 11-17
VISAYAS: Lee Plaza Mall - Dumaguete- July 13-15 - BQ Mall -Bohol - July 12-22 - Ormoc Superdome - Aug 3-5 - Real Food Centrum - Tacloban - Aug 14-20 - Ayala Center Cebu- Aug 28-Sept 3 - SM Iloilo - Sept 10 - 16 - SM Bacolod - Sept 24-30
MINDANAO: Gaisano Mall Davao- July 17-23 - Limketkai Mall CDO- July 30-Aug 5 - Valencia City Gym- Aug 24-26 - KCC Mall Gensan - Aug 24-Sept 2 - Southway Square Mall Zamboanga- Aug 31-Sept 2 - Bgy San Miguel MP Hall - Iligan - Sept 7-9 - Medina Gym Ozamis- Sept 14-16

Per DTI NCR Permit No: 2453 Series of 2007

Comfort and convenience at La Primera Casita

PRIVACY, IN ADDITION TO COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE, probably define the newest themed residential project of Step One Property Builders Inc, one of the most progressive medium-rise condominium developers in urban centers today.

La Primera Casita, a five-story residential condominium strategically located at the heart of the city, is a home away from home. Ideal for workers who hold office in the metropolis, residents in this project thus save time, money and effort wasted in traveling to and from work due to the city's perennial gridlock. Secured by a stylish gate and a security fence, La Primera Casita boasts of an elegantly designed façade and driveway, a multipurpose hall at the 5th floor, a seven-passenger elevator, a parking space for 10 vehicles, and a water cistern and overhead water tank. It is situated at 19th Avenue Extension, Col. Bonny Serrano Avenue in Cubao, Quezon City. The condominium has two commercial and 48 residential units with one toilet and bath. Each floor has 12 units beginning at the second floor, parking is at ground level and alongside the two commercial areas. There is also a provision for a two-bedroom unit which can either have one or two toilet and bath, depending on the buyer. Now 90-percent complete, all La Primera Casita units are equipped with smoke-detectors and fire protection. The building also has a lightning arrester for the tenants' peace of mind.

Only 20 meters from Edsa and the MRT Santolan Station, La Primera Casita provides easy access to your everyday activities. Just around the corner are large shopping malls and commercial centers such as Gateway Mall, SM Cubao, Ali Mall, Araneta Center, Farmer's Plaza, Shopwise, Rustan's and Makro Cubao. One ride away is the Eastwood Cyber Park while the Makati and Ortigas business districts are also highly accessible. It is also very near reputable hospitals such as the World Citi Medical Center and clinics, churches and schools like Stella Maris College, Sacred Heart School, Roosevelt Memorial High School, Poveda, and La Salle Greenhills

Just like any of Sopbi's themed projects, La Primera Casita also comes with an easy-payment term. The down payment for a 22-sq. m. studio unit priced at P1.1 million is only P200,000 which can be paid even up to 12 months without interest. The remaining balance is payable either through bank or Pag-Ibig financing. For inquiries, call 891-3371, 891-5554 or 891-5511.

Organize your haven with Orocan

ENJOY ORGANIZING YOUR HOME OR OFFICE space with Orocan's array of high quality and aesthetic products. Revolutionizing home design and organization, Orocan is the practical choice for maintaining your vision of a clean, orderly home. Orocan presents the following tips:

• Sort your belongings - to get your house in order, keep what you need and throw out what you rarely use. An alternative would be to store them in boxes and stash them in some corner in the meantime. No matter how tedious the process might seem, you'll feel relieved once everything is in its place.

• Opt for practical storage solutions - arrange things based on what they're used for and frequency of use. To organize your house as well as add color and pizzazz, choose from Orocan's wide range of chest and drawers. The elegant Caha de Oro Image Dresser with Drawers will be a great piece in your bedroom. For the kids' room, the multi-colored Kidstuff or Bambino will be most apt.

• Consider organizing all areas of the house - commit to change and keep other parts of your house organized, clean and stylish as well. Turn your kitchen into a royal area of indulgence with Orocan's multi-purpose Kitchen Queen. Then there's also the highly reliable Kitchen Butler and Dimple Giant. Turn the garage or the stockroom into a customized storage area with Orocan's stackable Flexi Box.

• Keep your valuables safe - certain Orocan products like its drawers and Flexi Box with Window have locks for added security.

• Find space-friendly pieces -- for those living in smaller condos or apartments, the extra effort of choosing home pieces minus the bulk can be a cinch. The minimalist but highly versatile California chest drawer can be the perfect choice.

• Label - optional of course. You can label items so that it'll be easy for you and your family to locate things after a major home makeover.

Most importantly, make organization your daily routine.

These are just a few suggestions on how you can organize your home and make it a more convivial place. You can learn more techniques and procedures by experimenting and soliciting advice from your family and friends. Invest in affordable, durable and lovely pieces such as those designed and manufactured by Orocan. These indispensable pieces will allow you to organize your home with practical pieces without compromising your haven's aesthetic appeal. Orocan products are made of durable, premium plastic and are easy to clean saving your precious time and money. With Orocan products around, you are sure to enjoy the perks of a clean, organized home. Check out Orocan products at all leading department stores near you.

Sony boosts HD line-up

From page II

never too early to purchase a Sony Blu-ray player for the whole family," Balao said.

The Blu-ray player is also capable of playing AVCHD format disc encoded in xvYGCC technology, also known as x.v.Colour by Sony, which can display a wider range of colours to create a more natural feel to the images. Supported by the latest AVCHD Handycam camcorders HDR0UX7, HDR-UX5, HDR-HC7 and HDR-HC5, users can record memorable moments and playback in Sony's Blu-ray player to enjoy picture quality in a color range standard approximately twice that of conventional standards. In addition, the Blu-ray player is capable of playback in various popular formats including DVD, CD, BD-ROM, JPEG and DVD recordable media.

Indeed, Sony's Blu-ray player is a strong addition to Sony's lineup of full high definition products.

New TVs

Sony's pride in HD stems from its unparalleled technology bundled up in its Bravia line of television. Only the Bravia Engine Pro of Sony Bravia televisions can create 1080 highest resolution to enhance HD viewing, resulting in sharper, clearer images and wider range of colors.

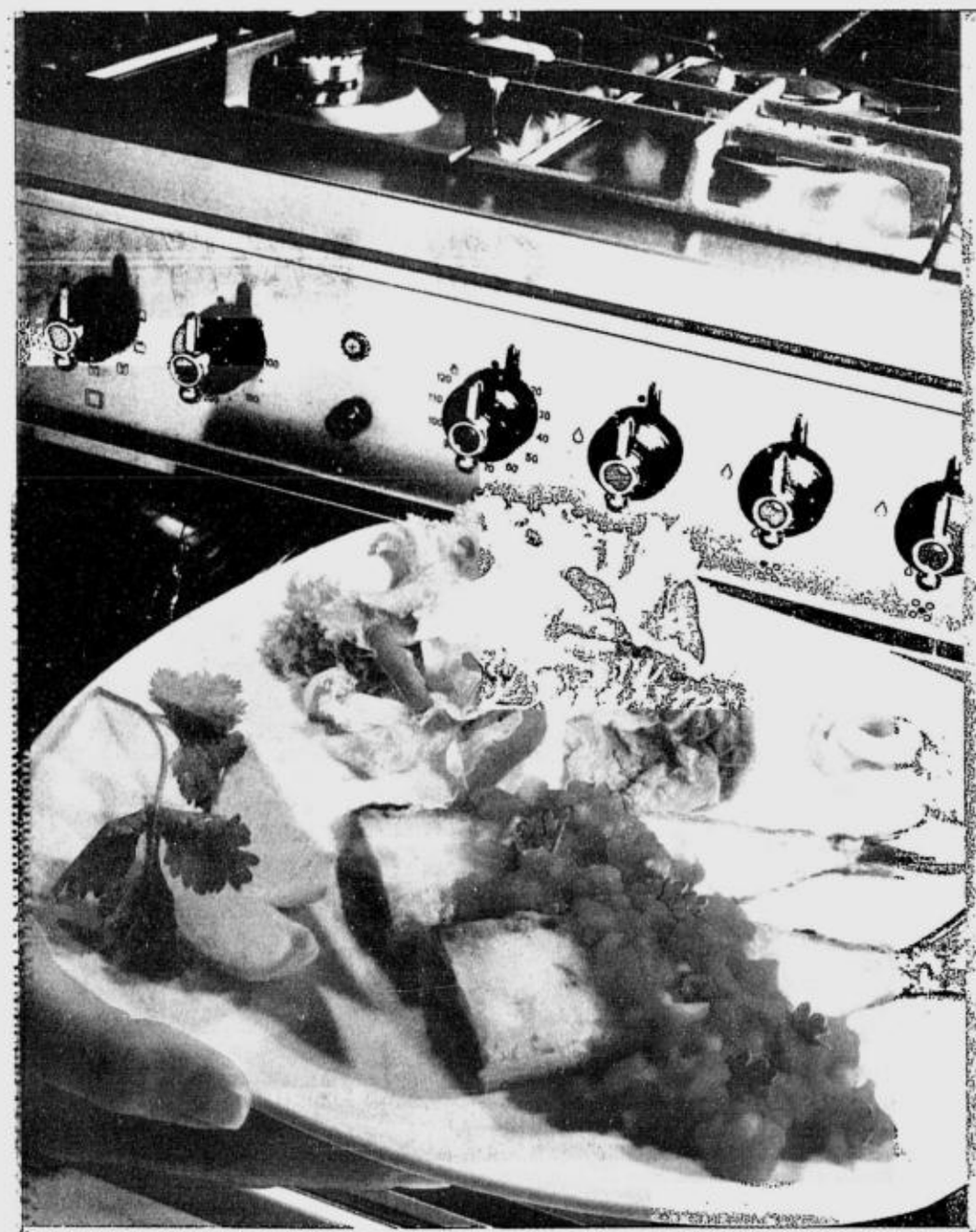
Fitted with the renowned Silicon X-tal (Crystal) Reflective Display (SXRD) that delivers full 1920 horizontal 1080 vertical pixels of high resolution. Each SXRD panel is made with greater consistency and efficiency as they are in Sony's own manufacturing facilities using unique and sophisticated processes that directly benefits customers in both costs and quality.

Inspired by the Bravia's success the world over, Sony is introducing new Bravia series to provide consumers with a wider selection of superior quality televisions to showcase the closest depiction of reality with every movie or image flashed on the screen. Each series possesses unique features to suit the requirements of discerning consumers, aside from other remarkable features found in all Bravia televisions that has earned the brand a reputation for being the most outstanding and trusted brand of LCD television worldwide.

Ranging from 26-inch, 32-inch, 40-inch to 46-inch models, the new V Series delivers new enhancements to high definition picture quality in greater contrast and richer color reproduction. The V Series features the Bravia Theater Sync for added convenience. This allows users to operate their Sony home theater devices using just a single remote. With just a press of a button, the Bravia theater and sound system for example, are instantly synchronized for better control capability. Collaborating with Sony Pictures Entertainment, the new Cinema Mode is developed to boost colors in dark areas of the movie while retaining a certain level of film grain to achieve viewing experience much closer to that seen in the cinema. The Series also supports 1080p HDMI input to bring an even greater color and picture quality when connected to other high definition devices such as the Sony Blu-ray disc player.

Next in the Bravia line is the U Series including the 37-inch, 32-inch and 26-inch models. The U Series delivers high-picture quality. These models are also equipped with HDMI input terminal that can transmit digital audio and video signals for maintaining a good signal-to-noise level. The larger 32- and 37-inch models offer an ultra-wide viewing angle of up to 178 degrees enabling more viewers to enjoy HD contents shown on the screen.

Lastly, the 20-inch KLV-20G300A (G Series) has an integrated 3D comb filter for high quality video and 10W of stereo sound through the side-mounted speakers. Its small size makes it ideal for viewing in smaller places like the kitchen and the bedroom.



Now you can serve sumptuous Sardina Piccante to your Amigas.

In English? Spicy sardines. But who cares? It doesn't matter what you serve. What matters is how it was prepared. And with Ariston kitchen appliances, the argument ends there. Ariston appliances are 100% Italian made, built for those with a discerning taste and flair for kitchen fashion.

There are cookers. Then, there's Ariston.

ARISTON by INDESIT

Available at leading appliance stores nationwide. Official Distributor: Fabriano S.p.A. Inc. # 103 Mercedes Avenue, Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City. CEBU office (032) 253-9860, DAVAO office (082) 225-4109, CAGAYAN DE ORO office (088) 856-4727.
Showrooms: Shangri-La (02) 631-8282, Serendra (02) 856-2518, and MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (02) 815-8875. Service Hotline 643-3456 • Nationwide service and call centers available.

Ariston's Aqualtis makes waves this rainy season

ARISTON BY INDESIT - ONE OF the largest brands in the built-in market and the market leader in Italy, adds a sophisticated twist to its innovative line-up of appliances with the launch of its most modern washing machine - Aqualtis. This is Ariston's expression of its vision to create a washing machine that will meet and even anticipate the needs and demands of their customers.

The profile of an ideal washing machine, the Aqualtis has been designed to be more comfortable in use, flexible, environment-friendly with improved water and power consumption, while caring for the most delicate of fabrics.

Comfort

The ergonomic design of Aqualtis makes your posture in loading and unloading as natural and comfortable as possible with its door opening completely like a book; to the drum access porthole with a 35-cm diameter and the drum with an inclination of 8 degrees. It also ensures more safety, with the dispenser situated inside the door, thus, making it out of reach of children. A more intuitive programming is also applied, with the display being integrated in the door. While a left to right selection order makes up for easier interaction logic.

Flexibility

Built for great demands, the Aqualtis exceeds every expectation. Even with its standard dimension, its loading capacity is 50 percent higher than other washing machines. Plus, it has versatile flexible features like the Duvet cycle, Bed & Bath cycle, Mini-load, and Shirts cycle. The Duvet cycle treats your feather duvets, eiderdowns, quilts or padded anoraks with utmost care, eliminating the need for the dry cleaners. The Bed & Bath cycle enables you to wash all bedding and towels for the entire family in a single cycle.

The Mini-load option showcases extreme flexibility for the demands of everyday washing, which lets you have great results in small loads. While the Shirts cycle eliminates the risk of creases, and gives extreme care to color and fabric of your favorite shirts.

The Aqualtis is available in 7.5 kg AQXXL129 EX and 6 kg AQXL109 EX capacity models.

For more information, call or visit the Ariston/Indesit showrooms: Shangri-La (631-8282), Serendra (856-2518), or at the MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (815-8875).

Experience Ariston's Aqualtis, the latest innovation in washing machines, both in aesthetics and performance.

Panasonic puts forward the World's Slimmest Digital Camera

Panasonic gets underway with the newest addition to the Lumix family of high performance digital cameras, dubbed as the "world's slimmest stylish digital camera," the Lumix DMC-FX30 sets the benchmark for photography excellence in the most convenient and fashionably portable structure.

Despite its remarkably compact body and slim profile, the stylish FX30 boasts a 28mm wide-angle Leica DC lens that lets you fit more people in a photo in the tightest of spaces and capture stunning portraits of people with extensive scenery in the background. Also equipped with Panasonic's pioneering features like the Mega O.I.S. (Optical Image Stabilizer) with Intelligent ISO Control that provide easier and more beautiful and sharper images amidst careless movements, the slim and stylish DMC-FX30 also stores 27 MB of built-in memory, which can save the day should you happen to fill up or forget to take along a memory card. A wide variety of scene modes, including the new Pet and Sunset modes, also make it more fun to get beautiful photos in a range of photographic situations.

Smartly designed and packed with features, the new DMC-FX30 adds to the Lumix legacy of advanced digital cameras that are perfect for capturing clear, crisp, beautiful images that turn life's special moments into cherished memories.

Drawing cutting-edge technology to improve its array of Lumix cameras that bring forth a unique and more enjoyable picture-perfect moments, Panasonic furthers its commitment to society by highlighting state-of-the-art gadgets and gizmos that can benefit the local market and propel it towards global excellence.

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The TZ3 and TZ2 are successors to the legendary DMC-TZ1, a Panasonic phenomenon conceived as a 'World Traveller' that not only offered a 10x optical zoom and compact styling but also incorporated a host of unique, traveller-friendly functions that have earned accolades world wide. The new TZ3 and TZ2 went several notches higher than their predecessor in terms of outstanding performance by featuring a 28mm wide-angle LEICA DC VARIO-ELMAR lens. While the 10x zoom lets you take close-up shots even at great distance from your subject, the wide-angle lens takes its turn in situations where you are at the closest proximity to your subject. With the TZ3 and TZ2 you can capture portraits of people with expansive scenery or large structures in the background. You can also zoom in or out to magnify a distant subject when desired.

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Armed with the Intelligent Image Stabilization system, a Panasonic pioneering feature, the TZ3 and TZ2 digital cameras combine great quality inside and out as they render outstanding pictures albeit several disrupting motions and external factors.

Other features that improve usability and convenience include a Clipboard function that holds information, several new scene modes, and a Direct Print feature that allows quick, easy printouts. Also, the lens cap is now built into the camera itself and serves as an automatic protective barrier, bringing Panasonic's new models into quality innovations for modern life.

Panasonic pioneers big league refrigeration with the all-new

Panasonic recently introduced the newest household companion in all kinds of storage and freezing needs—the all-new Panasonic 10 cu. ft. freezer—that provides efficient cooling system and larger storage spaces for cooler and more enjoyable lifestyle.

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Grand feasts and meal courses will cease to be tomorrow's waste as bulky food delights like turkeys can settle down on a comfortable dwelling with bigger, taller and wider spacious compartments for longer-lasting freshness.

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Convenience appears at the helm in Panasonic freezers with its reliable door support and slide-out utility pan for the many expediency that freezing and cooling require.

Also available in 6 and 8 cubic ft. sizes, Panasonic's all-new freezing and storage innovation boasts of upper limit, hassle-free operations.

Pioneering in the local market is the result of Panasonic's continuous commitment to offer the ultimate convenience to the end-users. It has put in new technologies in its refrigeration system in response to its commitment of continuously updating its array of innovations for the benefit of its consumers. Maintaining its leadership in the refrigeration system manufacturing, Panasonic jet-sets the trend of freezers and refrigerators in the local market, stocked with many possibilities of offering cooler surprises for years to come.

Panasonic's 2007 Line-Up of VIERA Flat-Panel TVs

Capture the Motion World

Panasonic recently launched its new range of VIERA Flat Plasma and LCD TVs that stage high quality reproduction of fast-moving images, easy operations and smart networking features at the Mandarin Oriental.

To further revolutionize consumers' viewing experience, Panasonic has increased its assortment in the 26-inch as well as 32inch category as a response to the increasing consumer demand for LCD TVs in the Philippines. Panasonic has also incorporated a new generation technology, the "100 Hz Motion Picture Pro," that further reduces afterimages and blurriness of fast moving images and scenes in its top of the range 32-inch models which also boast of the "IPS-alpha" Panel.

The limelight for technological evolution hovered more on Panasonic's latest VIERA Plasma TVs which provide even darker blacks and subtler gradation and give images exceptional detail on larger screens. Giving rich texture to even the finest movie details, Panasonic's technologies reproduce images that convey deep emotion and provide superb viewing quality with clarity and detail to bring sports and movies to life.

Equipped with the refined Panasonic's V-Real II technology acclaimed for delivering outstanding image quality, VIERA Plasma TVs yield video reproduction that reaches the level of art. These new technologies combine expertise gained in developing high-definition cameras used to broadcast the Olympics Games with advanced authoring technologies developed at the Panasonic Hollywood Laboratory (PHL).

To further augment the Plasma's revolutionary clarity, Panasonic also introduces the Anti-Glare Process Technology - a technology which outputs clear picture production for the ultimate viewing experience.

Panasonic is the World's First Manufacturer to produce Plasma with this technology.

But the most unique feature of Panasonic's 2007 VIERA Flat Panel TVs is the Viera Link, allowing users to operate other connected AV components via one VIERA TV's remote control unit. So a DVD recorder, Blu-ray player, HD Video Camera and other equipment can be connected to a VIERA TV that will provide extra ease and convenience as part of the entertainment package. The VIERA Link experience also offers networking convenience with a high-capacity SDHC cards (4GB). Take a moment to enjoy precious moments in slide shows while watching your captured pictures manifest themselves in VIERA.

Every system, device and component in VIERA reflects Panasonic's relentless pursuit of superior image quality from every angle. With the incessant flow of modern innovations in the industry, Panasonic timely delivers more ideas for life.

Panasonic
ideas for life

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

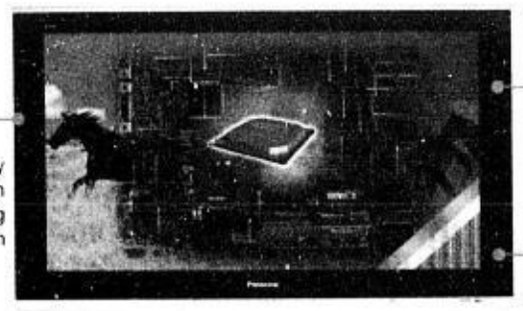
THINK VIVID

VIERA
A whole new VISUAL ERA

1080p HD Plasma

V-real 2

VIERA V-REAL II PROCESSOR
Enhances the basic quality of images reproduced from input video signals, resulting to beautiful, high-resolution images.



VIERA V-real II Driver
The high-performance driver optimizes the performance of the display panel. This helps VIERA render images that have smooth, crystal-clear motion and delicate colours with rich gradation.

VIERA G10 Panel
This provides clear, vivid display of the video signal after processing by the V-real II processor and driver. The result is deep, rich blacks and beautiful, sharp images with vivid colour even when viewing in bright light.

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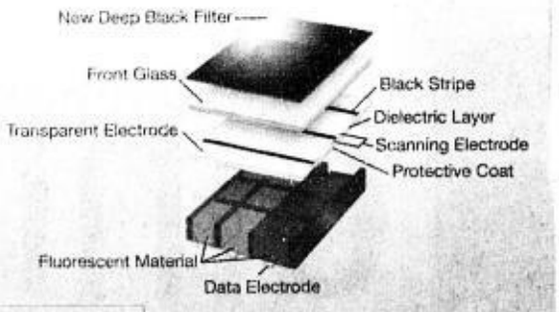
The Real Black Drive System and Deep Black Filter achieve exceptionally deep, rich blacks and maximum 10,000:1 contrast, producing cleaner details even in dark scenes.



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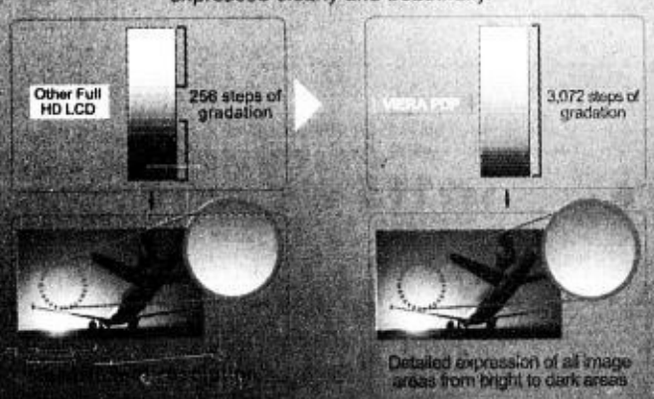
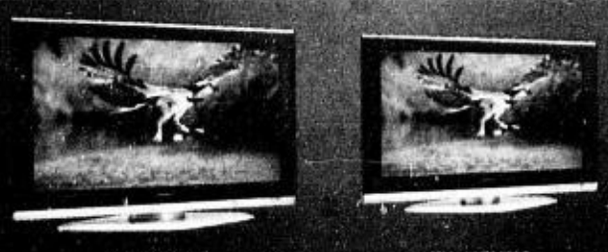


Plasma TV



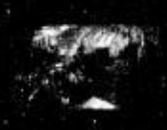
TH-50PV700 TH-42PV700

HD V-real II VIERA HDMI SD PC input SRS

TH-50PV70 TH-42PV70

HD V-real II VIERA HDMI PC input

LCD TV



8500:1 by IPS-α Panel

TX-32LX700

HD V-real II 100Hz INTELLIGENT VIERA HDMI SD PC input SRS

TX-32LX70 TX-32LE7 TX-26LX70 TX-26LE7

HD V-real VIERA HDMI

www.panasonic.com.ph

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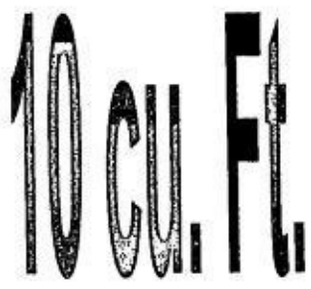

freezer

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Panasonic
ideas

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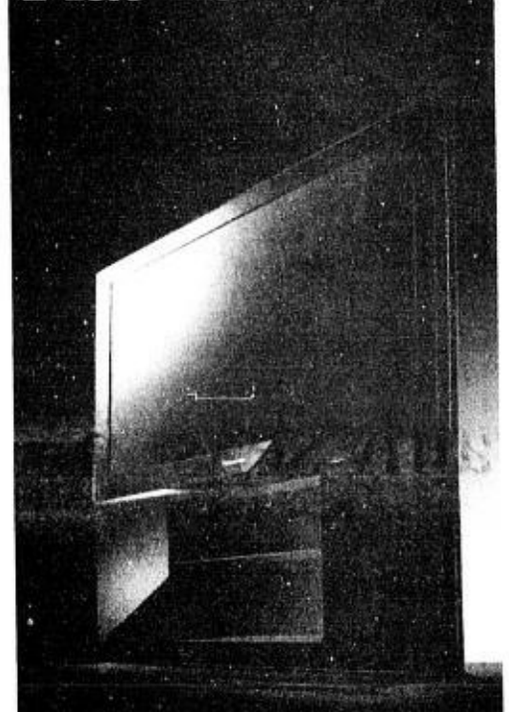

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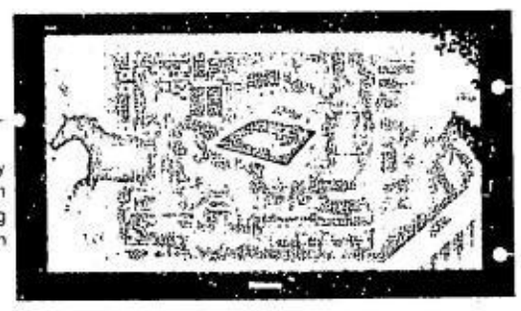

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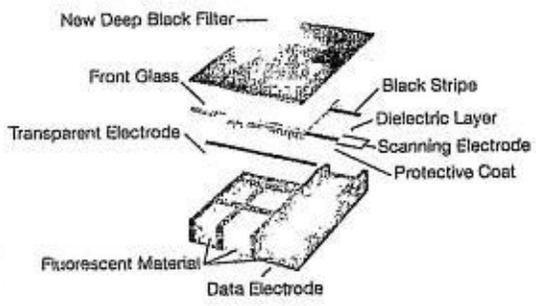

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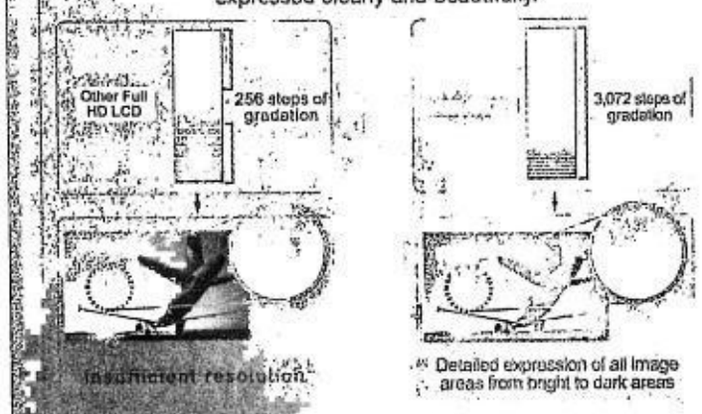
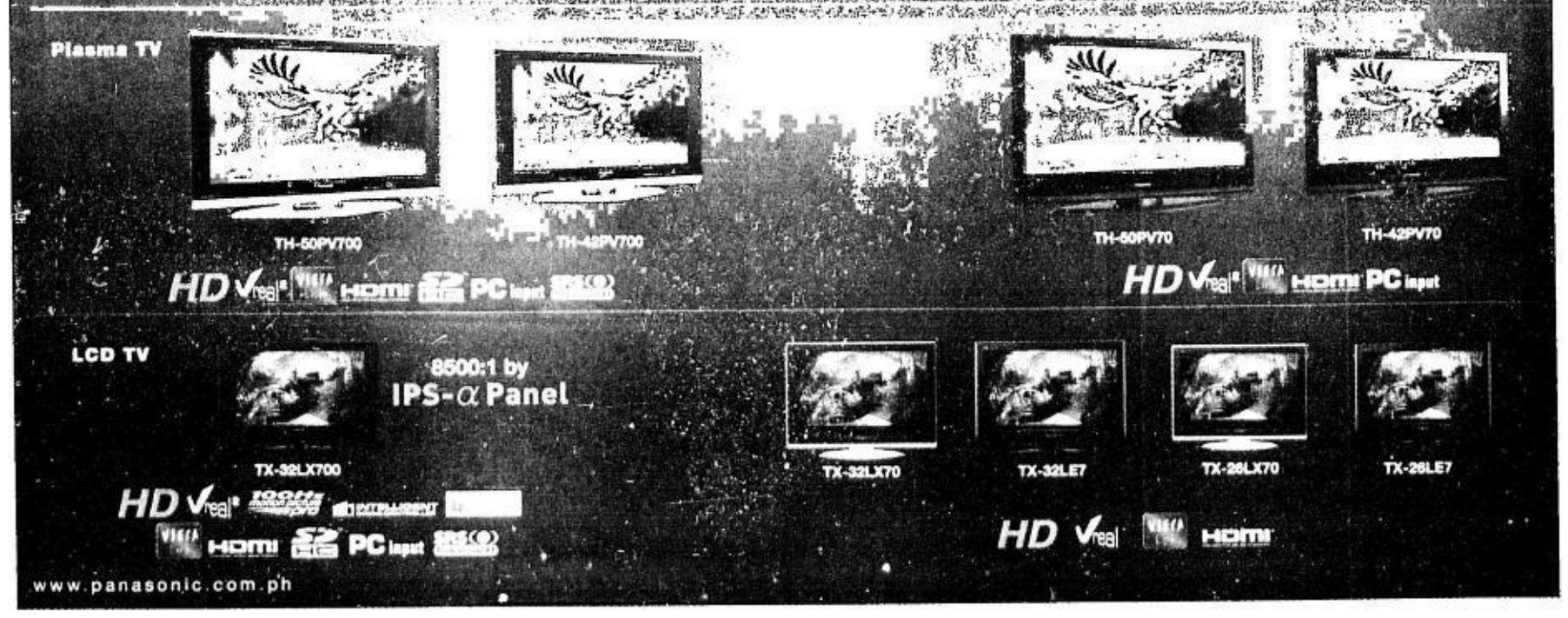
Viera uses up to 3,072 steps of gradation. This results to high-resolution as both light and dark parts of an image are expressed clearly and beautifully.





Dishwashing 101: A unique plan of attack for every surface

IT JUST ISN'T ALL ABOUT THE liquid soap. It also isn't just about strong hands, either. Cleaning up after every meal involves some knowledge in metal and glass chemistry, too.

From www.howstuffworks.com are helpful tips and guidelines for cleaning all your cookware and serving ware, from cast iron pans to crystal glasses.

But first, here are some great tips for general cleaning of serving ware and cookware:

Basic care for all cookware and serving ware starts with reading the manufacturer's care instructions.

Wash all pots and pans thoroughly inside and out soon after use.

If baked-on food requires washing the pan in soapsuds, dry it thoroughly after washing over a warm burner and rub vegetable oil into the pan with a paper towel.

Prevent heat stains on the outside of pans by keeping gas flames low so that they cannot lick up the side of the pot.

Do not subject cookware to sudden temperature changes; allow all cookware to cool before washing or soaking.

Cast iron

Cast-iron cookware has a tendency to rust if it is not kept properly seasoned. Some cast-iron cooking utensils come from the factory already sealed, but most will have to be seasoned before their first use. Season cast-iron cookware in the traditional way: Scour cast-iron pots with a steel-wool soap pad, rinse, then wipe the inside of the pot with vegetable oil, place it in a warm oven for two hours, and wipe off the excess oil. Repeat this procedure periodically and whenever rust spots appear.

Wash cast-iron cookware in hot sudsy water, then dry it thoroughly, and store in a dry cupboard without its lid in place.

Never wash cast-iron cookware in the dishwasher; it will remove the seasoning and cause rust.

Clay and enamel

Soak new clay cookware in water for about 30 minutes before using it for the first time. Be sure to soak both the top and the bottom, then scrub them well with a stiff brush to remove any clay dust.

Line the cooker with parchment paper to prevent the porous surface from absorbing food stains and strong flavors.

If your clay pot becomes stained or takes on pungent odors, fill the cooker with water, add 1 to 4 tablespoons baking soda, and let it stand.

Never put hot clay cookware on a cold surface. It might crack.

Never wash clay cookware in the dishwasher or scrub it with a steel-wool soap pad.

Carefully dry the cooker before storing it to prevent mold. Store clay cookware with its lid off.

If mold spots appear on a clay cooker, brush the surface with a paste made of equal parts baking soda and water. Let stand 30 minutes, preferably in strong sunlight; brush the paste away, rinse well in clear water, and dry.

Always let enamel cookware cool before washing. Rapid changes in temperature can crack the enamel coating.

If necessary, soak a dirty pot to loosen cooked-on foods.

Use a synthetic scouring pad -- never abrasive cleansers or steel wool -- to scrub stubborn soil.

Enamelware can be washed safely in the dishwasher.

Dinnerware

To make short work of cleaning dinnerware, remove food residue as quickly as possible. Scrape dishes with a rubber scraper or plastic brush to prevent scratches. Never scrape plates with knives or other sharp objects.

Rinse out cups before residues have a chance to stain them.

Acidic foods, such as tomatoes, vinegar, and wine, allowed to remain on glazed dinnerware can pit the surface.

To protect glass and china from breaking while you are washing it, use a plastic dish pan or rubber sink mat. You can also pad the bottom of the sink with a towel.

Do not wash delicate, hand-painted, gold- or silver-trimmed, or antique dinnerware in the dishwasher. Metal-trimmed dinnerware should also not be soaked in soapy water for long periods of time; this will damage the trim.

Flatware and cutlery

Most people wash knives, forks, and spoons along with other dishes. If washing by hand, wash flatware after the glasses and before the plates.

Cutlery (knives and other cutting instruments) can be cleaned in the same way as flatware, but observe the manufacturer's instructions to be sure that the cutlery is dishwasher-safe.

Always wash gold-plate flatware by hand and buff to bring up the shine and prevent water spots.

Sterling-silver and silver-plate flatware may be washed in the dishwasher, but will need to be polished less often if it is washed by hand.

Rinse salt and acidic food off flatware as soon as possible to avoid stains.

Clean streaks on your everyday flatware by rubbing with a soft cloth sprinkled with a little olive oil. Use a second cloth to buff.

Make a paste of cornstarch and water and apply to tarnished silverware. Let dry; wipe clean with a dry cloth.

> Just like glassware, glass and ceramic cookware requires tender loving care. Most heat-resistant glass and ceramic-glass cookware is designed for oven use only, but some can be used on stovetops. Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully to make sure that you use your cookware appropriately

Mix a solution of 5 ounces dry milk powder, 12 ounces water, and 1 tablespoon white vinegar. Pour into a 9x13-inch cake pan. Drop in tarnished silverware, and let it sit overnight. Rinse and dry all pieces thoroughly.

Store silverware in rolls, bags, or cases made with special tarnish-resistant cloth.

Place 1 or 2 pieces of white chalk in your silverware chest to prevent tarnishing.

Do not allow stainless-steel flatware to touch anything made of silver in the dishwasher. It will set up an electrolytic action that pits the stainless steel and leaves black spots on the silver.

Glassware

Most glassware can be safely washed in the dishwasher, but gilt- and silver-trim glass, delicate crystal, milk glass, and ornamental glass must be washed by hand. If you have soft water, wash all glassware by hand -- the combination of soft water and detergent will etch and permanently dull glassware.

Before you wash glassware, cushion the bottom of the sink with a towel or rubber mat.

Add vinegar to the wash water or rinse water for more sparkle; ammonia in the wash water will cut grease on glassware.

Slowly slide stemware into the water, holding the glass by the base; if you push a glass into the water bottom first, it is likely to crack.

Remove dirt from crevices with a soft brush; remove stains by rubbing with a cut lemon or washing in a vinegar solution.

Allow glassware to drip-dry upside down, or polish with a soft cloth.

Clean stained decanters by filling them with water and adding 1 cup ammonia or vinegar. Soak overnight.

Just like glassware, glass and ceramic cookware requires tender loving care. Most heat-resistant glass and ceramic-glass cookware is designed for oven use only, but some can be used on stovetops. Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully to make sure that you use your cookware appropriately.

All glass and ceramic-glass cookware is dishwasher-safe. Glass cookware that is allowed to boil dry is likely to shatter. If a pot boils dry, turn off the heat and leave the pot where it is until it has cooled.

Remove mineral deposits from glass coffeepots and teapots by boiling full-strength cider vinegar in the container for 15 minutes.

Nonstick finishes

Nonstick finishes or coatings are relatively thin and easily damaged. Use wood, nylon, or specially coated spoons and spatulas to prevent surface damage.

Most nonstick cookware can be safely washed in the dishwasher.

Wash new pans before using them, and lightly coat the inside with vegetable oil. Apply vegetable oil again after each washing in the dishwasher and after treating for stains.

Do not soak pans in soapy water; the coating can retain a soap flavor.

When you want to remove stains from nonstick cookware, mix 2 tablespoons baking soda with 1 cup water and 1/2 cup liquid bleach. Boil the solution in the pan for several minutes until the stains disappear, then wash as usual.

Plastic and rubber

Plastic and rubber utensils and containers should never be exposed to high heat, because some plastics will melt and warp, and heat and sunlight can cause rubber products to crack.

Check the manufacturer's instructions to see if an item is dishwasher-safe.

Do not use solvents, harsh abrasives, or scouring pads to remove stains from plastic or rubber.

A paste made of baking soda and water is very effective for removing stubborn soils and stains from plastic and rubber utensils. Apply the paste to plastic with a sponge or soft cloth; a synthetic scouring pad can be used on rubber.

Remove odor from a plastic container by crumpling a piece of newspaper into the container. Secure the lid tightly, and leave it overnight. The paper will absorb the odor.

Stainless steel

Stainless steel requires little special care. It is dishwasher-safe, but if you wash it by hand, dry it promptly to prevent water spots.

Letting a pot boil over high heat for a long period of time will discolor stainless steel.

Storing the cookware stacked with other pots and pans may cause surface scratches.

To polish stainless steel, sprinkle baking soda on the wet surface of a pan, and scrub the metal with a synthetic scouring pad. Be sure to wear rubber gloves. After rinsing and drying, the pan will be bright as new.

Wood

Wood bowls, trays, rolling pins, spoons, salad utensils, and cutting boards need special care to prevent warping and cracking. Because wood is porous, it absorbs moisture. When it dries out, the wood may be rough because the water may have raised the grain. Periodically clean and oil cutting boards to restore their smooth surfaces and to protect them from moisture. Some salad bowls are finished with a waterproof varnish, but many people prefer to keep their bowls untreated to absorb seasonings and enhance the flavor of salad.

Wipe wood immediately after use with a sponge or paper towel moistened in cold water.

If the wood item needs to be washed, don't let it soak in water and never put it in the dishwasher.

Remove stains with a solution of 1/4 cup chlorine bleach and 1 quart warm water. Rinse and dry, then coat with vegetable oil.

Eliminate odors by rubbing the surface with a slice of lemon.

Baking soda cleans and deodorizes wood. Mix 1/2 cup baking soda with 1 quart warm water, and rub it on the wood surface. Wear rubber gloves for this procedure.

Use a synthetic scouring pad to clean a cutting board. Scour the gummy residue on the edges of the board. Rinse with clear water; blot the moisture with a towel, and air-dry.

Bring back the natural finish by giving woodenware a coat of boiled linseed oil or vegetable oil; rubbed in with a synthetic scouring pad. Apply two thin coats 24 hours apart, wiping off the excess 1/2 hour after each application.

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Health in every aromatic sip

IT'S EVERYWHERE, IN ANY FORM, shape and size. Once, it was served steaming hot. Now, it could be served chilled, stirred and shaken (and even mixed with alcoholic beverages!).

It comes in glass containers, paper bags, or aluminum sachets. People take it standing, sitting, on their backs, on their tummies, in bed, in front of the TV, while listening to the radio, while reading, or even while just staring out into nothing.

It matches every mood. People take it when they're happy, sad, contemplative, sociable, introverted, alone, or with company (desirable or otherwise). It crosses every social, economic, and political barriers.

Its name is coffee. It has been around since the 9th century (when it appeared in the highlands of Ethiopia), and with present consumption of over 6.7 million tons of it (in 2003, projected to rise to 7 million tons in 2010), it has assured itself of immortality on every table and cupboard and store shelf around the world.

Everyone knows what coffee does. There's no single universal effect. For some, it relaxes and de-stresses. For many, a cup is enough to keep them awake and alert. For a vast majority of coffee drinkers, it has become a habit. A day, or even a meal, simply isn't complete without that finishing cup.

There is, however, another set of effects brought about by drinking coffee. And this is the kind of news coffee lovers would be raising their cups in agreement about. It's that drinking coffee does seem to bring about positive health effects.

According to the Internet's free information site Wikipedia.org, studies have suggested that the consumption of coffee is beneficial to health in some ways. Coffee appears to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, diabetes mellitus type 2, cirrhosis of the liver, and gout. Some

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health effects are due to the caffeine content of coffee, as the benefits are only observed in those who drink caffeinated coffee, while others appear to be due to other components of the coffee.

But, like anything else, drinking excessive amounts of coffee brings with it negative health effects. Magnesium deficiency, or hypomagnesemia, comes to mind. Hypomagnesemia is an electrolyte disturbance in which there is an abnormally low level of magnesium in the blood, and this can cause, among others, cardiac arrhythmia and increased irritability of the nervous system with tetany.

Harvard Health Publications of the Harvard Medical School cites large investigations identifying several potential benefits from coffee drinking.

HEALTH/ J2

Start a great day with Great Taste!

TO HAVE A GREAT DAY, MAKE sure to start it right with the right frame of mind. Top off a hearty breakfast with a great tasting cup of coffee, and psyche yourself up for the day.

Perk yourself up

To jumpstart your day, have a cup of Great Taste Premium, made from the finest coffee beans and roasted to perfection. Mix with creamer and sugar, or drink it black. Great Taste Premium gets you ready for that great day ahead.

Extract greatness from every granule

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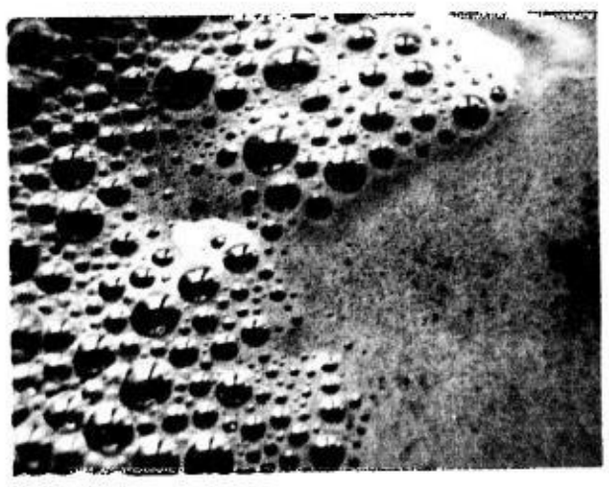
Carry a great attitude

Be cool with the triple choices of Great Taste Iced Coffee. These refreshingly cool coffee drinks come in convenient tetra packs that are perfect on-the-go.

So, before you go out and face the day, set the tone on a good note. Or, even better, set the tone on a great note! With Great Taste Coffee, your day can only be great.



Brews and beans

Did you know that in olden times coffee was used as an aphrodisiac? Turkish husbands during the 15th century kept their wives well supplied with coffee. And if a husband refused to do so, it was a legitimate cause for a wife to divorce him. Not only that, coffee too was used for its purportedly medicinal properties. In grand rituals, Arabian men brewed coffee for their women to drink to alleviate menstrual discomforts.

Centuries have passed, now coffee has become a lifestyle drink. Drinking coffee at home or at ritzy cafeterias and hotels is a leisurely activity to pass time, gossip, read, and ponder deep thoughts.

But where does coffee come from? Coffee comes from the beans produced by a variety of coffee plants. Coffee beans are classified into different types and they are usually distinct of the areas or regions where they're grown.

The Coffea Arabica tree is an evergreen with broad, shiny, arrowhead shaped leaves. The trees bear small, white flowers that cluster at the base of the leaves and grow in pairs on either side of the tree's central stem. Coffee trees grow to a height of 14 to 20 feet. Growers keep them pruned to about 6 feet to simplify picking the beans and nourish heavy bearing of berries.

The first visible sign of a coffee tree's maturity (around 5 years old) is the appearance of small white blossoms, which fill the air with the heady aroma of jasmine and orange.

The mature coffee tree's small oval berries are about the color and size of a small cherry. Inside the skin and pulp are two coffee beans with their flat sides together. Each tree can produce between 1 and 12 pounds of coffee per year, depending on soil, climate, and many other factors. The plants are propagated either from seed or from cuttings.

Arabica trees grow best in conditions where there are no extreme temperatures in fertile, well-watered, well-drained soil. Since the trees need partial sun, some growers plant shade trees or make protective trellises to shade the coffee trees.

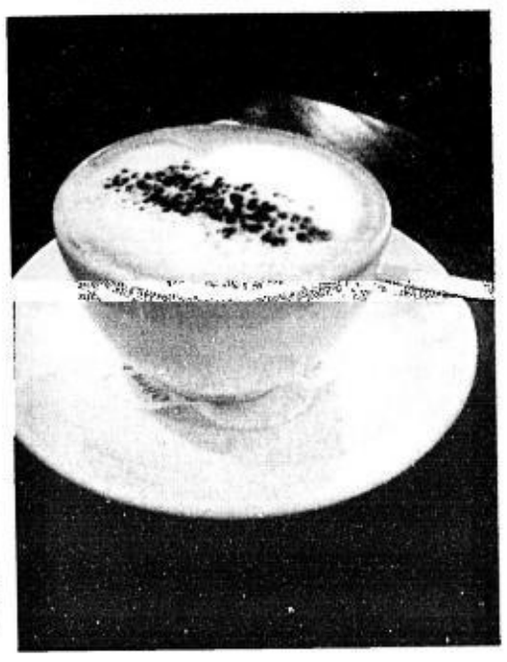
Arabica trees grown at altitudes between 4,000 to 4,500 feet usually produce coffee with a hard bean. Coffee grown above 4,500 feet is referred to as "strictly hard bean". The colder climate encourages a slower-maturing bean, and the beans are harder and denser than other beans and are more desirable.

Coffea Robusta grow on a species of coffee trees that were first discovered growing wild at low altitudes in Uganda in the late 19th century.

Robustas generally grow at lower altitudes and warmer temperatures than the Arabicas and are produced in the Eastern Hemisphere exclusively. Robustas produce a less characteristic "coffee" taste than the Arabicas.

Coffea Robusta tends to be a hardier, more disease-resistant bean less expensive to maintain and produces a higher yield than the Arabicas. Consequently Robustas are used for the less expensive canned and instant coffees.

Coffea Liberica is comparable to Coffea Robusta, however, only a few percent of all coffee comes from this low growing West African plant.



'Dry' or 'wet' preparation

Once coffee is picked, it can be prepared either by a "dry" method, which produces what is called natural coffee, or by the "wet" method, which produces what is known as "washed coffee".

For the dry method, the berries are dried, either by the sun or in a mechanical dryer. The hard, shriveled husk is removed from the bean by machine, soaking and washing with hot water, or by using either a grindstone or mortar and pestle.

Wet method involves the removal of the beans' covering before it is dried leaving the beans covered with a sticky substance. The beans are then fermented in large tanks by softening them in water, allowing natural enzymes to digest the sticky substance from the bean. The coffee is washed and dried either by the sun in open terraces or in large mechanical dryers.

The last step in processing is cleaning. With most high-quality coffees, the beans are placed on conveyor belts or trays and examined by workers who remove defective beans, sticks, dirt, and other debris. The very best coffees may be cleaned twice.

Grading by country

The beans are then graded and roasted. Grading is based on four criteria: Size of the bean, country and altitude, preparation, and the quality of picking, and taste known as "cup quality."

A large part of what makes specialty coffees special is the tremendous extra care taken in the grading of the beans. Even a single defective bean can taint the flavor of an entire pot or pound of coffee, so repeated, meticulous sorting both electronically and by hand are used.

Turning starch to sugar

Roasting is the process of turning green coffee beans over heat to force moisture out, bring volatile oils closer to the surface and release the essence of the bean's flavor.

The beans are heated in rotating, horizontal drums that provide a tumbling action to prevent uneven roasting or scorching. Temperatures for roasting range from 380° to 425° F. Precise temperature and timing make the difference between an excellent roast and burnt beans.

Roasting changes the chemistry of the bean by converting the starches to sugars, known as "developing" the bean. During the roasting process, most of the moisture is cooked off and the beans lose 18 to 20 percent of their weight. However, the beans gain smoothness, a caramel taste, and a bitter edge. During the roasting process, the beans actually plump up to double their size. Once roasted, the beans require rapid cooling.

Coffee that is neither roasted long enough nor hot enough to bring out the oil has a pasty, nutty, or bread-like flavor. Coffee roasted too long or at too high a temperature is thin-bodied, burned, and industrial-flavored. Coffee roasted too long or at too low a temperature has a baked flavor.

Beans can be roasted at home by using an ordinary frying pan. Stir often or the beans will burn. A hot-air popcorn popper also does very well. The temperature is just right for roasting coffee, and the motion of the air will keep the beans moving quickly so they don't scorch. At first, the beans will be too heavy for the hot air to move them, so stir them constantly until they start moving. (The ShoppingPlace.com)

Coffee that is neither roasted long enough nor hot enough to bring out the oil has a pasty, nutty, or bread-like flavor. Coffee roasted too long or at too high a temperature is thin-bodied, burned, and industrial-flavored.

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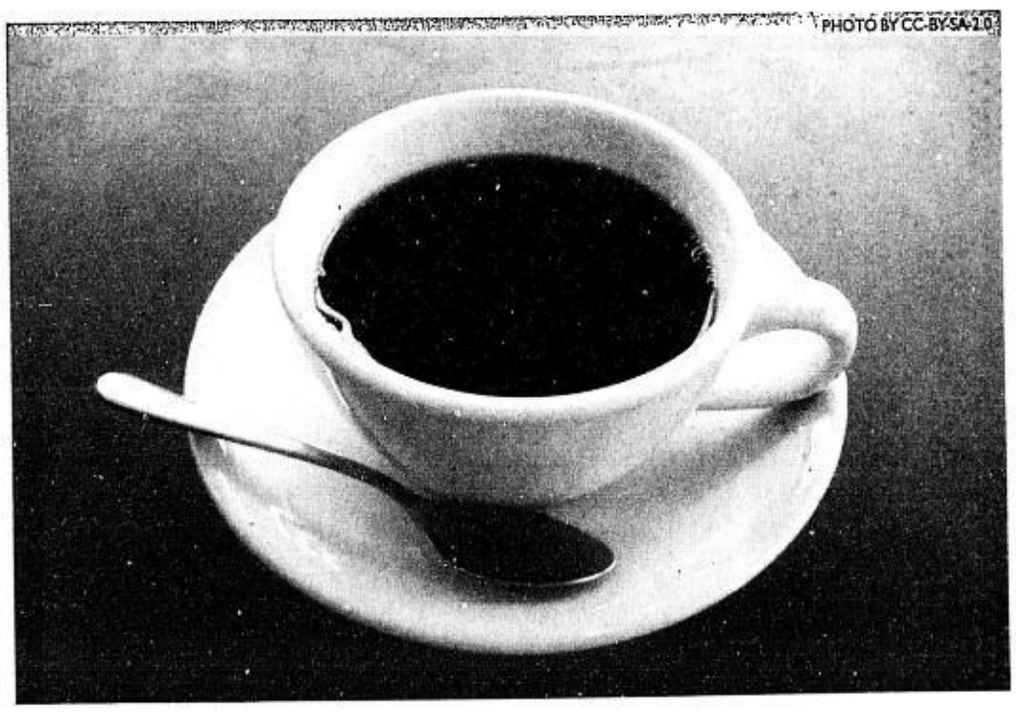

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Health in every aromatic sip

From page J1

Diabetes risk down 30%

The risk for type 2 diabetes is lower among regular coffee drinkers than among those who don't drink coffee. In two studies, Harvard researchers found that women who drank 6 cups or more per day reduced their risk for type 2 diabetes by 30 percent (Annals of Internal Medicine, January 2004). This result is particularly significant because the studies tracked a total of 125,000 men and women for a dozen years or more.

Several studies have found a reduced risk of colon cancer in people who drink 4 or more cups of coffee per day, compared with those who rarely or never drink coffee

Altering formation of gallstones

A Harvard study found that women who drink 4 cups of coffee per day have a reduced risk of developing gallstones. Coffee may alter the metabolism of bile acids, which trigger the formation of the cholesterol crystals that become gallstones. Coffee also stimulates gallbladder contractions, which may curb stone formation.

Similarly, Finnish scientists following nearly 15,000 men and women ages 35 to 64 found that women who drank 3 to 4 cups per day had a 29-percent lower risk for diabetes, and drinking 10 or more cups per day lowered the risk even further (Journal of the American Medical Association, March 2004). But no one is recommending that women drink 10 cups a day, or even more than 3 or 4 cups. Not enough is known about its other effects at high doses. We know that it may be harmful in some circumstances, including pregnancy.

Coffee antioxidant vs colon cancer

Several studies have found a reduced risk of colon cancer in people who drink 4 or more cups of coffee per day, compared with those who rarely or never drink coffee. In 2003, German researchers reported that they identified an antioxidant in coffee called methylpyridinium, which boosts the activity of enzymes that may discourage the development of colon cancer. The compound is found in both regular (caffeine-containing) and decaffeinated coffee.

Positive cognitive tests

Research involving older men and women participating in the Rancho Bernardo Study found that lifetime coffee intake is associated with better performance by women (but not men) on several cognitive tests. No relationship was found between cognitive function and decaffeinated coffee consumption.

Improved endurance performance

Caffeine has been shown to improve endurance performance in long-duration physical activities such as running, cross-country skiing, and cycling. Studies suggest this effect occurs at doses of 2 to 9 mg of caffeine per 2.2 pounds of body weight. This is about the amount of caffeine found in 2 to 5 cups of coffee.

Reduced risk for liver damage

Researchers at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases have found a strong association between coffee drinking and a reduced risk for liver damage in people at high risk for liver disease. This includes heavy drinkers of alcohol, people with hepatitis B or C, and those with iron overload disorders, such as hemochromatosis. The highest consumption, more than 2 cups of coffee per day, was correlated with the greatest benefit.

50% risk reduction for Parkinson's disease

Several large studies have shown a reduced risk for Parkinson's disease in coffee drinkers. Although most of the data come from research in men, a 2001 Harvard School of Public Health study found that women who consumed 1 to 3 cups of coffee per day had a 50-percent reduction in risk for Parkinson's disease, with no increased benefit at higher levels of intake.

Moderate daily intake of coffee has been estimated to be between 2 and 4 cups (at 8 ounces per cup). The Institute of Medicine, Caffeine for the Sustainment of Mental Task Performance estimates that a potentially fatal dose of caffeine would be between 10 to 14 grams (10,000 to 14,000 mg). An 8-ounce cup of drip-brewed coffee has about 100 mg of caffeine. Doing the math, a coffee addict would have to consume 100 to 140 cups of coffee in one sitting before he or she drops dead from an overdose of caffeine.

Have a sip of Italy!

SURELY YOU'VE FOUND YOURSELF instinctively steering away from a crowd more than a few times, especially when you were on a nice little break. Maybe it was the noise. Maybe it was what they're lining up for, or the combination of both that gave some places that conveyor belt-fed assembly line ambience. Well these days, it isn't wrong to look for something special even just for a nice little break. So how about a little piece of Italy to go with that cup of coffee and muffin of yours?

Almost exactly at the corner of Wilson Street and Ortigas Avenue in Greenhills is a coffee shop with a name that's so unabashedly Italian, you might find yourself unconsciously parroting the accent. Segafredo Zanetti. Yes it's a mouthful, but it does roll out of the tongue easily. And you'd be right to assume that a coffee shop that's stamped with something as personal as one's full name would serve you food and beverage preparations that would be worth staking one's reputation on, for several generations, in fact.

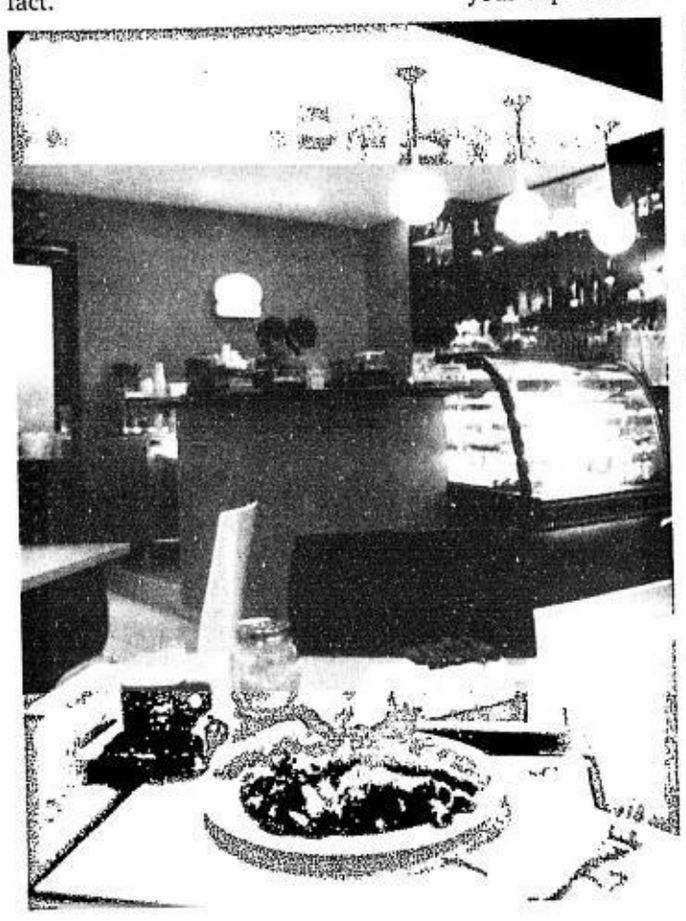
Coffee is the most Italian beverage there is, and that's according to them. And since it's indissolubly tied to their history, their traditions and their taste, you can expect they'd fuss over getting it right with an intense passion. And, you can be sure that Segafredo Zanetti does coffee right. Once there, you have to try the most Italian of coffees... the Espresso. Looking for a faster way to get his morning brew, a certain Luigi Bezzera from Milan tried forcing very hot water under high pressure through ground coffee in 1903. The resulting process produced quite a unique type of coffee with a thicker consistency, and an unmistakable concentration of flavor. We can all thank Luigi's impatience for the Espresso we now enjoy. But at Segafredo, Espresso is certainly not the only thing you'd enjoy.

Two up-and-coming bright chefs from the International School for Culinary Arts & Hotel Management gleefully whip up authentic Italian dishes to complete your experience there... Ai Formaggi is their sumptuous four-cheese pizza served with a thin and crispy crust, a perfect follow-up to their exquisite Zuppa di Pomodorro, which is a simple tomato soup prepared in a way that would earn it a rightful space in your list of favorites. Arrabiatta tops their selection of pastas with its exotic blend of herbs and spices. But do leave room for their glorious desserts that could render one borderline delirious. Of course, their extensive list of Italian coffee specialties and addicting smoothies would keep you coming back, mealtime or not.

Rarely does the color red look cool to the eyes, but in the case of Segafredo's refreshingly modern yet surprisingly cozy ambience, it does, and in combination with the natural and tungsten-hued lighting, is actually soothing. The fact that it's not situated deep in a frenetic shopping mall or a bustling business center adds to its more exclusive appeal. And according to general manager Erwin Versoza, exclusivity is an important attribute a coffee shop should have. That and the capacity to provide its customers with a premium experience every time they visit, so he spared no expense both in time and resources in designing and building his branch of Segafredo Zanetti.

Versoza also happens to be the sole distributor of Swedish brand Thule in the Philippines (the world's leading brand of automotive load carrying systems). If there's an emerging pattern here, that would be his penchant for carrying outstanding products that are doing exceptionally well in the market, and his resolve in making sure that the customers here get the same level of satisfaction their European counterparts are getting in terms of their coffee or dining experience. So, as Versoza briskly consumes his Espresso, he basks in the gratification of having his very own little piece of Italy, and the freedom to share it with everyone.

To enjoy an authentic Italian coffee moment, a fulfilling dining experience, or better yet both-visit Segafredo Zanetti Greenhills at the IEB Building, Ortigas Avenue corner Wilson Street, San Juan, Metro Manila. You may also call 726-7782 and 726-4733 for more information. Buon Giorno!



World Food Expo 2007

THE WORLD FOOD EXPO 2007 (WOFEX), AN INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION ON worldwide food, beverage, technology and machinery at the World Trade Center from Aug. 1-4, this year, will target to help in the progress and development of the food and beverage industry. In celebration of its seventh year anniversary, exhibition organizer Premier Events Group Plus, Inc brings together more than one thousand five hundred F&B exhibitors in the country to showcase latest products, services and technology that will help boost the industry. It will be a shopping haven for trade buyers, suppliers, and local and international visitors engaged in the food and beverage industry. Wofex 2007 in World Trade Center is dubbed as the biggest, most effective and most comprehensive food trade show. Wide array of products and services will be exhibited such as noodle-making machines, industrial refrigeration, bar coding and printing, supermarket systems, buffet wares, ice cream machines, packaging materials and equipment, pet bottles, cake display, freezers, ovens, syrups, food additives, dairy, coffee machineries and beans, canned goods, and specialty beverages, flavors and seasonings, juice dispensers, syrups, confectionaries, buffetwares, cookwares, cutleries and more. "Though we aim big to attain big objectives, such as business and product development, we make sure that 'newcomers' in food and beverage business are not alienated. We designed this trade show in such a way that even individual visitors not into the business will understand and will not be intimidated by the technological innovations we will be introducing," said Jocelle Pascual, VP for marketing, Premier Events Group Plus Inc. Culinary/baking competitions, workshops, technical sessions and seminars to be conducted by leading food chefs and food experts will be presented to the general public during its 4-day run. Aside from the activities in World Trade Center, Wofex 2007 has co-located events such as Baker's Fair, Taste Expo, Foodmach 2007 Expo, and the World Food Summit. The World Food Expo (Wofex) has been considered as the biggest and most comprehensive food and beverage event held annually in the country since 2000. It has been an instrument for the F&B industry to locate and network with necessary manufacturers and suppliers of products, services, machinery and technology in the country. Over 52,000 trade and retail visitors are expected to attend Wofex 2007. For more information, log on to www.wofex.com or call Premier Events Plus Group Inc at 929-7993 or 63, 435-4790, 436-4209, and 551-5224 during the expo dates at the World Trade Center or e-mail info@PEPGroups.com.

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Walang kasingtulad ang coffee break kapag kasama mo ang isang tasa ng mainit at masarap na **Jimm's 5 in 1 Coffee**. Ito'y dahil di lang sarap ang iyong malalasap sa bawat tasa, kundi pati na rin ang sustansyang nakakapagpasigla!

Ito ay dahil ang **Jimm's 5 in 1 Coffee** ay may sangkap na Korean Ginseng at Agaricus Blazei Mushroom. Ito ay aprubado ng BFAD at HALAL kaya pagtitiwala ay sigurado, kaya ugaliing uminom ng kapeng nakakasigla.

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Then and now, coffee the stuff of legends, history

Coffee makes up the genus Coffea of the family Rubiaceae. Arabian coffee is classified as Coffea Arabica, Robusta coffee as Coffea Canephora, and Liberian coffee as Coffea Liberica.

Botanical evidence indicates that Coffea Arabica originated on the plateaus of central Ethiopia, several thousand feet above sea level.

According to the Kaldi Coffee Legend, coffee is said to have been first discovered when a goat-herd in Abysinia, while basking in the sun, observed his goats dancing on their hind legs after eating some red berries. He tasted the berries and his sleepy eyes opened. He took some to the village and everybody also liked it, as it kept them awake during their prayers.

Initially, coffee was brewed from green, unroasted beans to yield a tea-like beverage. By the late 13th century, Arabians roasted and ground coffee before brewing it. Ironically, coffee was usually brewed by Arabian men, and then drunk by Arabian women to alleviate menstrual discomforts.

Coffee cultivation was rare until the 15th and 16th centuries, when extensive planting of the trees occurred in the Yemen region of Arabia. From Yemen the use of coffee beans spread throughout the Arabian peninsula and later via the Othman Empire to Turkey. At that time, coffee was used for it's medicinal properties and as a ritual drink. The world's first coffee shop, Kiva Han, opened in Constantinople in 1475.

The modern coffee drink was invented at the end of 15th century, when roasting and crushing the coffee beans before extracting them with hot water grew in acceptance.

Introduced into Europe in the early 1600's, coffeehouses quickly appeared. The Arabs used so much coffee that the Christian church denounced coffee as "the hellish black brew." But Pope Clement VIII found it so great tasting that he baptized it and made it a Christian beverage saying "coffee is so delicious it would be a pity to let the infidels have exclusive use of it."

Exactly where and when coffee was first cultivated is not known, but some authorities believe that it was grown initially in Arabia near the Red Sea around the year 675. Other authorities say that coffee was discovered in Ethiopia around the year 900. Still others say that around the year 575, Arab traders took it to the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, now known as Yemen, where the cultivation of coffee began.

In 1607, Captain John Smith founded the colony of Virginia at Jamestown. It's believed that he introduced coffee to North America.

The first coffeehouse opened in England in 1652. A cup of coffee sold for a penny.

Paris coffeehouses opened in 1672.

In 1675, Franz Georg Kolschitzky, a Viennese who had lived in Turkey, opened central Europe's first coffeehouse. He also established the habit of refining the brew by filtering out the grounds, sweetening it, and adding a dash of milk.

Coffee made its way to Austria in 1683. Franz Kulczycki opened its first Viennese coffeehouse.

Along with the increase in popularity of coffee in Europe and especially England, the Dutch began to cultivate it in their colonies during the 17th century.

In 1723, French naval officer, Gabriel Mathieu do Clieu, stole a seedling and transplanted it to Martinique. That cutting was the start of coffee plantations in Latin America. Within 50 years an official survey recorded 19 million coffee trees on Martinique.

Americans revolted against King George's Tea Tax and in 1773, the Continental Congress declared coffee the official national beverage.

Espresso is a process of extracting flavor from coffee beans. In 1901, Luigi Bezzera filed a patent for a machine that contained a boiler and four "groups". Each group could take varying sized filters that contained the coffee grounds. Boiling water and steam were forced through the coffee and into the cup. Desiderio Pavoni purchased Luigi Bezzera's patent in 1903 and in 1905, began manufacturing machines based on the patent. The first espresso machine was installed in the United States in 1927 at Regio's in New York. The "La Pavoni" machine is on display there today.

In 1938, M. Cremonesi developed a piston pump that forced hot, not boiling, water through the coffee. The piston pump was quite an improvement as it eliminated the burnt taste of coffee which occurred in the Pavoni machine. Installed at Gaggia's Coffee Bar in 1946, Achille Gaggia began manufacturing a commercial piston machine. The resulting coffee had a layer of foam or "crema".

Water taken from the fresh water supply traveled through a tube that passed through the boiler and then through the coffee. This allowed the water to be at the optimal temperature, off the boil, filtered, and not have to stay in the boiler for a long period of time. Today, most restaurants use pump based machines.

In 1961, M. Faema launched a pump-based machine. The water was forced through the coffee by an electric pump rather than a manually operated piston.

Espresso machines have had many innovations in design to produce a consistent product regardless of the operator. Early designs were based on the operator deciding when to stop the machine.

Another innovation for espresso lovers included the "fully automatic" machine that ground the beans, frothed the milk and delivered a complete cup, all with the touch of a button.

Due to the economic importance of coffee exports, a number of Latin American countries made arrangements before World War II to allocate export quotas so that each country would be assured a certain share of the United States coffee market.

The first coffee quota agreement was arranged in 1940 and was administered by an Inter-American Coffee Board.

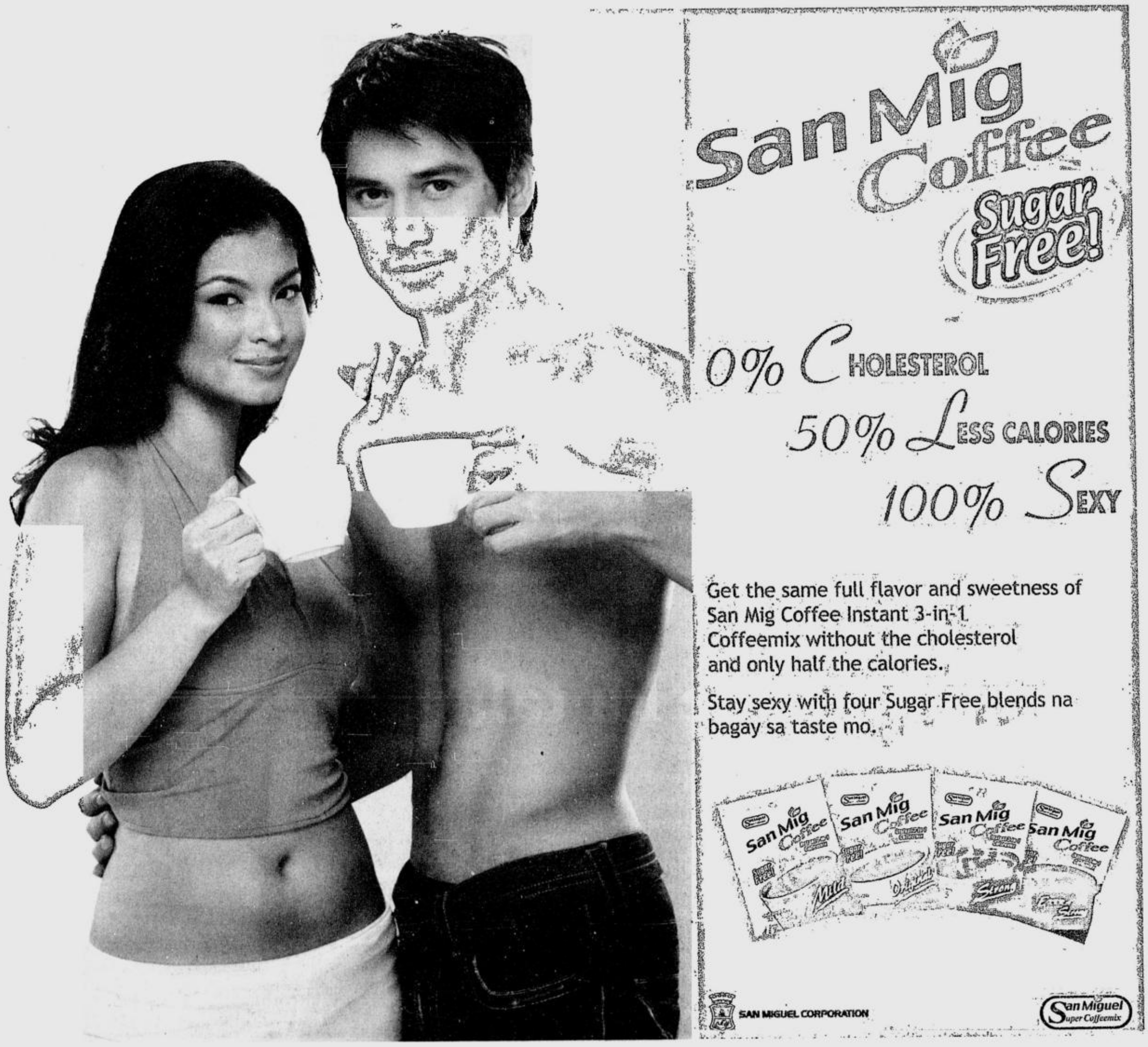
The idea of establishing coffee export quotas on a worldwide basis was adopted in 1962, when an International Coffee Agreement was negotiated by the United Nations.

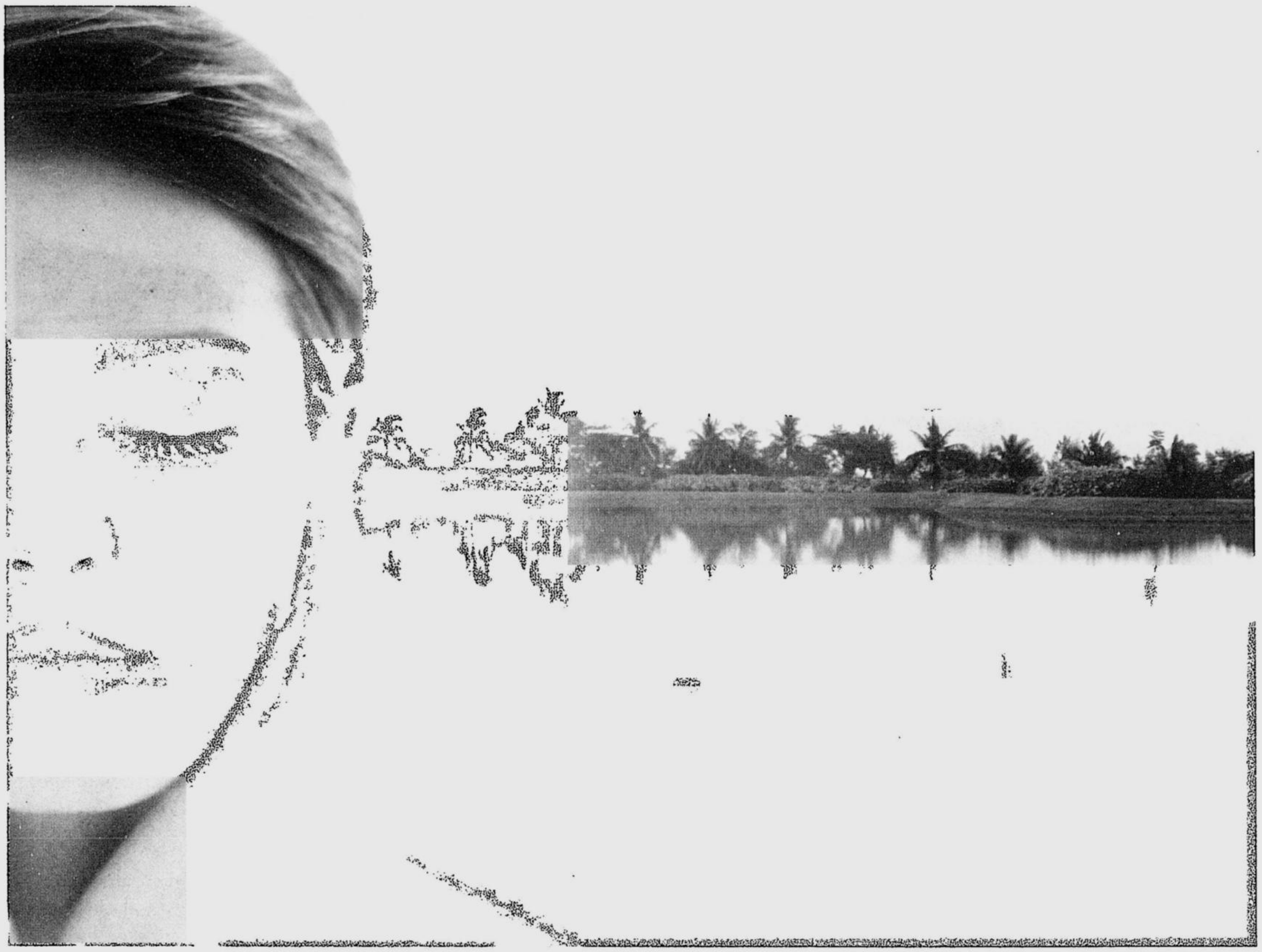
During the 5-year period, while the agreement was in effect, 41 exporting countries and 25 importing countries acceded to its terms. The agreement was renegotiated in 1968, 1976, and in 1983.

World coffee prices plunged when participating nations failed to sign a new pact in 1989. (TheShoppingPlace.com).

Trivia on the brew

- Germany is the world's second largest consumer of coffee in terms of volume at 16 pounds per person.
- Over 53 countries grow coffee worldwide, but all of them lie along the equator between the tropic of Cancer and Capricorn.
- An acre of coffee trees can produce up to 10,000 pounds of coffee cherries. That amounts to approximately 2,000 pounds of beans after hulling or milling.
- The percolator was invented in 1827 by a French man. It would boil the coffee producing a bitter tasting brew. Today most people use the drip or filtered method to brew their coffee.
- With the exception of Hawaii and Puerto Rico, no coffee is grown in the United States or its territories.
- Up until the 1870s most coffee was roasted at home in a frying pan over a charcoal fire. It wasn't until recent times that batch roasting became popular.
- Each year some 7 million tons of green beans are produced worldwide. Most of which is hand picked.
- 27 percent of US coffee drinkers and 43 percent of German drinkers add a sweetener to their coffee.
- The world's largest coffee producer is Brazil with over 3,970 million coffee trees. Colombia comes in second with around two thirds of Brazil's production.
- Hard bean means the coffee was grown at an altitude above 5,000 feet.
- Arabica and Robusta trees can produce crops for 20 to 30 years under proper conditions and care.
- Most coffee is transported by ships. Currently there are approximately 2,200 ships involved in transporting the beans each year.
- The popular trend towards flavored coffees originated in the United States during the 1970s.
- October 1st is the official Coffee Day in Japan.
- The first coffee tree in the Western Hemisphere was brought from France to the Island of Martinique in the 1720s.





The lightness of being

Montecito

life as it should be lived

This lake fed by a natural spring that flows through Montecito is the first sight that greets residents upon entering the property. Tilapia is grown in the lake, which is also home to a few ducks. The lake serves a dual purpose of irrigating the landscape and enhancing the neighborhood's atmosphere of tranquility.

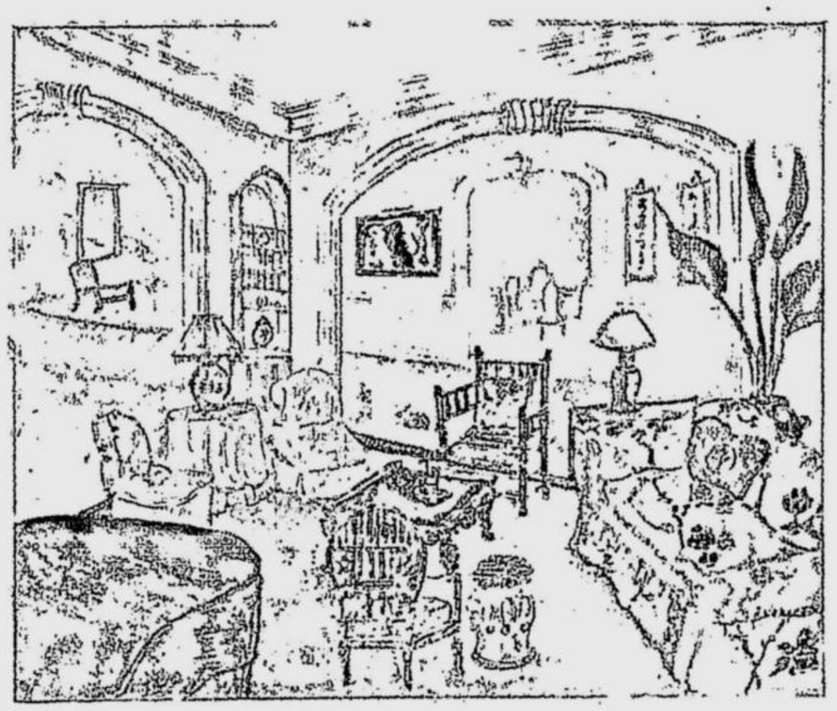
In 1983, former Canlubang Sugar Estate president Jose Yulo, Jr. and his wife Regina made a momentous decision to leave the congestion of the city and build a home in the family's Laguna plantation. Drawn to the balance of rural and urban life that its ideal location provided, Mr. Yulo returned to his beloved land and built a "grandfather house" that had provisions for self-sustainability, such as its own mini-hydroelectric plant and water system.

Today, Mr. and Mrs. Yulo continue to reside at the plantation, this time in a second house across a ravine from the original house that they built.

The "lightness of being" that he experienced from living full-time at the sugar and coconut plantation was so life-changing that Mr. Yulo, with the encouragement of Cesar Buenaventura, organized a team to develop 250 very special lots designed in the same spirit as his own home.

Baptized "Montecito" after the views of small mountains surrounding the property, a 60-hectare coconut grove was converted by an expert team of American and Filipino builders into a unique neighborhood designed to promote wellness of mind, body, and spirit.

The Matang Tubig ("eye of the water"), an artesian spring coming from the ridges of Tagaytay, runs through Montecito at a rate of 3,000 gallons per minute. The flow is strong enough to power a mini-hydroelectric plant in the property, which generates electricity to light main streets.



This painting of the living room of Mr. and Mrs. Jose Yulo, Jr.'s second house in Montecito was done by their only daughter Maia Yulo-La'O. Maia's experience in interior design was useful not just in decorating her parents' second house, but also in transforming their original house in Montecito into a guest pavilion.

The original Yulo house in Montecito that was built in the 1980's was designed by the late Leandro Locsin, a Yulo relative. This house has been reconditioned by the Yulo family and now serves as a guest pavilion for the neighborhood's visitors.

The eclectic look that resulted from combining vintage furniture that came with the old house and new pieces that were brought in make Montecito's guest pavilion a must-see. A large balcony wraps around the main hall, exposing the interior to the breezes and beauty of the gardens below.

More spaces for entertaining are set up on the ground floor of the old house, which opens up to the big garden.

canlubang on the rise

With the coming of the country's largest corporations to build landmark commercial and residential developments in the area, Canlubang is poised to become one of the Philippines' premier cities of the future.

It may be more known today as one of the Philippines' fastest growing economic hubs, but the name "Canlubang" has retained the charm of its bucolic origins. The rich history of Canlubang's fertile lands mirrors the history of the Philippines itself, beginning with the administration of the Spanish friars, followed by the coming of American corporations. Canlubang was passed on by the Americans to Don Vicente Madrigal, before it finally came under the wing of the Yulo family.

The opening up of Montecito is seen as a continuation of the philosophy of stewardship started by Jose Yulo, Sr. As Canlubang continues to grow in national prominence, the premium location of Montecito ensures it will remain a neighborhood with the best life has to offer for many generations.

Travel time to nearby establishments:

Shopping Malls	
Paseo de Santa Rosa	15 minutes
Alabang Town Center	20-30 minutes
Festival Mall	20-30 minutes
SM South Mall	20-30 minutes
Schools	
De La Salle Zobel, Alabang	20-30 minutes
Don Bosco	10 minutes
Southridge	30 minutes
St. Scholastica's College	15 minutes
UP Los Banos	30 minutes
Woodrose	30 minutes
Churches (Roman Catholic)	
St. James Alabang	20-30 minutes
San Jose Canlubang	15 minutes
Hospitals	
Asian Hospital	20-30 minutes
Golf Courses & Country Clubs	
Santa Elena	15 minutes
Southwoods	30 minutes
Canlubang	15 minutes
Tagaytay Highlands	30 minutes

The Montecito Lifestyle

Montecito is an exclusive residential community of just 250 lots, spread over a 60-hectare stretch of prime property in Canlubang, Laguna. An easy 20-minute drive from Alabang (or 45 minutes from Makati), Montecito is designed to promote health of mind, body, and spirit. Urban dwellers who are worried about the effects of stress and pollution on their lives and the health of their families will find that space and fresh air are in great abundance in this former coconut plantation. With extra-large lot cuts that range from 535-1,200 square meters, Montecito is ideal for people who have an appreciation for estate living in an all-natural environment, but wish to remain within a short distance from the city.

discover the radiance of living,
embrace the lightness of being

homes with open space on all four sides

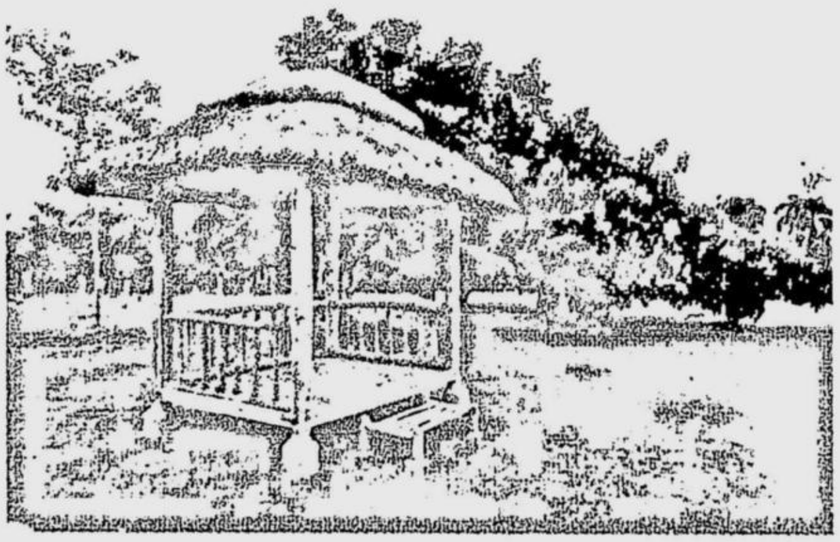
A 60-hectare area is usually divided into more than just 250 lots. But the planners of Montecito were committed to devoting half of the property to open space. In a radical departure from conventional thinking, nearly all lots in Montecito are designed to have a border of open space on all four sides, so no two houses are ever directly adjacent to each other. Grass courtyards or greenways between the houses function as buffer zones for privacy, and at the same time provide neighbors with a shared space for interaction.

water you can drink from the tap

Clean and abundant water to drink is a luxury that is fast running out in densely populated urban areas. Originally built for self-sustainability, Montecito is fortunate to have two deep wells providing 400 gallons of water each, collected in two reservoirs that have a total volume of 730 cubic meters. The village also has its own water treatment plant.

facilities that rejuvenate body and soul

Due to be constructed in Montecito is a community wellness center that will house a swimming pool, basketball and badminton courts, meditation and treatment rooms, an art studio, and social hall. These facilities will be built to blend with the natural environment of Montecito.

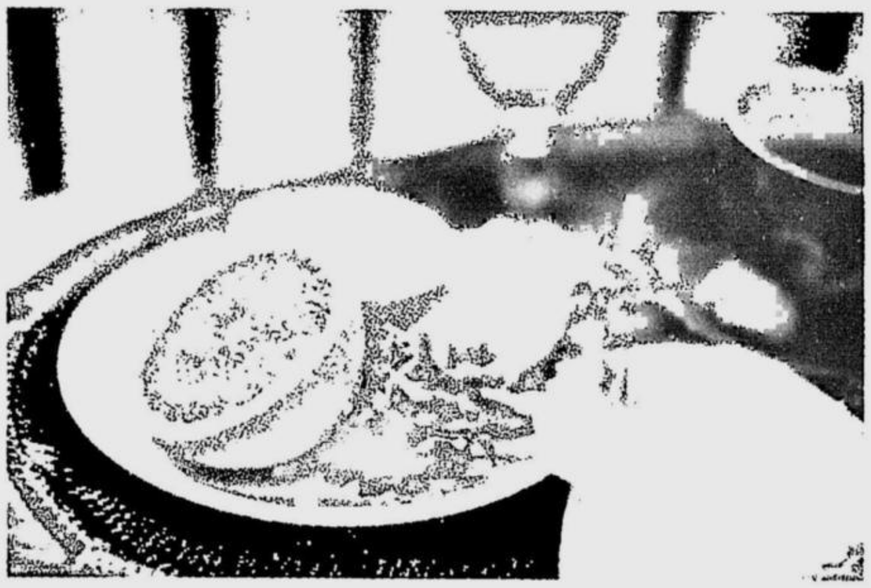


integrated outdoor and indoor living

Nearly 50% of Montecito's total land area is kept as open space. In effect, residents have access to space way beyond the size of the lot they actually purchase. "Outdoor salas" like the one shown in this photo are just one of the property features that make the most out of the generous amounts of space. Underground utilities and centralized electric meters also keep unsightly wires and poles from hampering views.

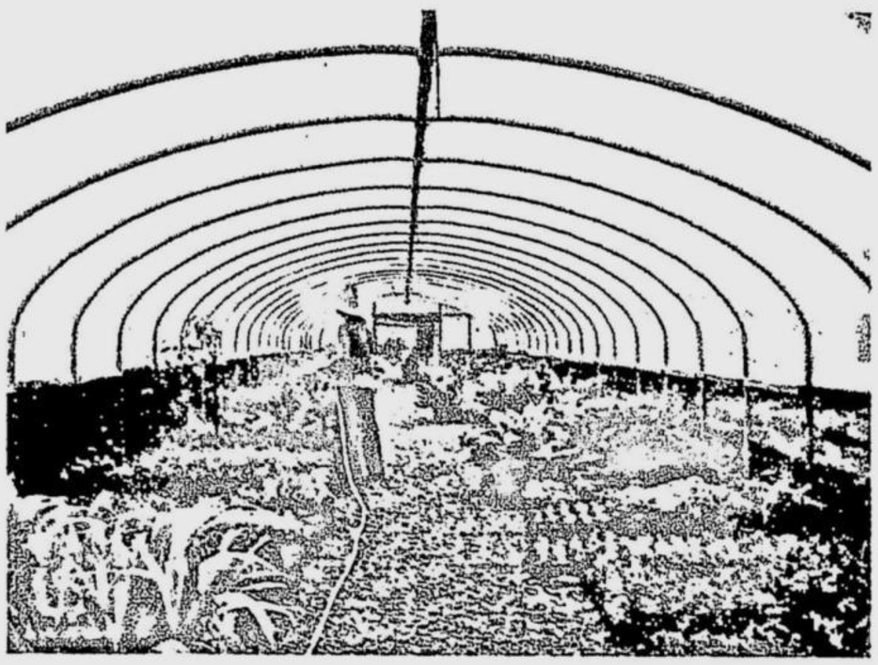
extra-large lot cuts

Montecito's lots range from 535-1,200 square meters each, an unusually large size intended for people with a particular preference for spacious lawns in their homes. Coupled with the greenways and grass courtyards that create ventilation corridors between lots and keep them separate, Montecito's property development plan is definitely unique and difficult to replicate in other residential communities.



a holistic approach to wellness

Healthy surroundings promote good health. At Montecito, the goal of overall wellness is given the appropriate setting to take root and bloom. Wide open skies, plenty of space to move, clean air and water work together to cultivate a positive and lighthearted state of mind. The city is a comfortable distance away, close enough to satisfy the practical needs of life, but far enough to keep toxic pressures away.



private tree and plant nursery

Its very own tree and plant nursery is one of the prides of Montecito. The village maintenance staff nurtures a wide variety of plants to keep the neighborhood's surroundings always healthy and natural. Views of flourishing trees and plants are known to have a positive effect on physical and emotional well-being. For this reason, Montecito's management makes the resources of the tree and plant nursery available for all residents.

living with a lightness of being

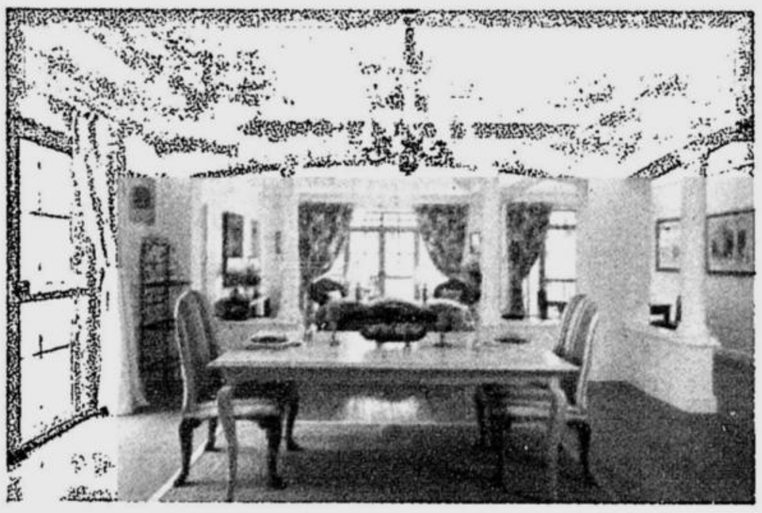
Manang Yolly, housekeeper to the Yulo family for 20 years, tidies up a bedroom in the model house at Montecito in this photo, as soft morning light pours in through the French doors. This image encapsulates what living in Montecito is all about light, bright, airy, and secure in the presence of familiar souls. Experience the lightness of being in this special place that allows you to live as you were meant to. Call +63 2 67005568 to schedule a site visit.

Tim Coppola

Montecito's American master planner talks about the property's exceptionally spacious design.

This sketch was done by Montecito's American master planner Tim Coppola during a project team meeting. It shows (from left to right) his wife and design collaborator Janet Taber, Mrs. Regina Yulo, Mr. Jose Yulo, Jr., architects Willy and Gil Coscolluela, and Bobby and Maia Yulo-La'O.

A model house that was built in Montecito illustrates how one might live in a high-ceilinged courtyard house bordered by open space on all four sides. This house is open for viewing when visiting the village.



The homey interiors of the model house give it a pleasant lived-in feel. House plans can be shared with future residents to aid them in designing the right house for their lot in Montecito.

What was the design inspiration for Montecito?

The Spanish courtyard house was our inspiration for the master plan. The greenways and common gardens encourage interaction. Through the greenways, we were able to re-introduce the backyard fruit trees and shrubs for cooking that are most commonly found in traditional Philippine gardens. For the model house design, we featured high ceilings. We tried to capture the outdoor spaces and include them in the house proper, creating a sensitive balance between privacy and community. The concept was developed to preserve and integrate the existing coconut plantation into the designs for the courtyard housing. Our goal was to maintain 50% of the site as open space.

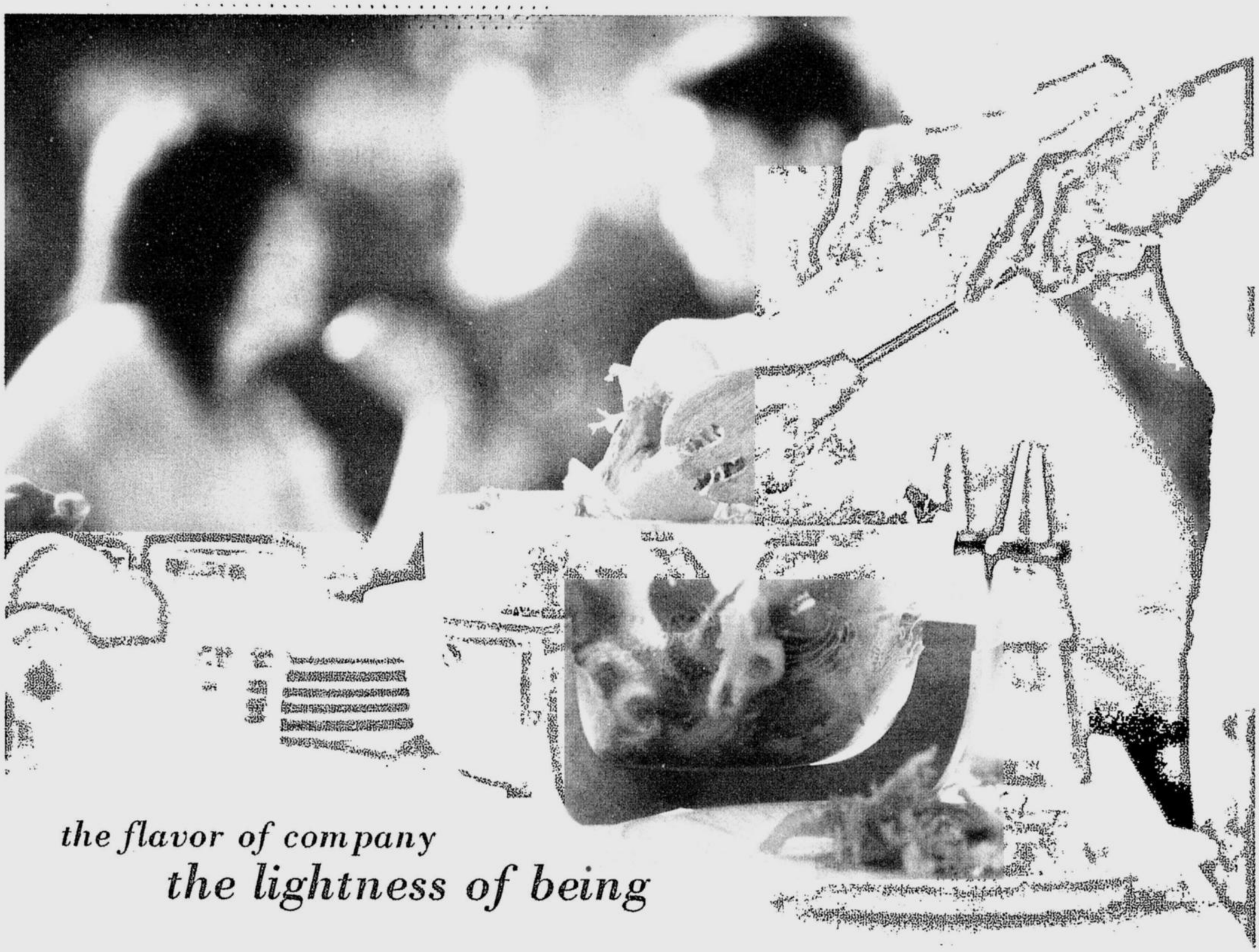
Tell us more about the courtyard concept. How prevalent is this in other countries?

The courtyard house, the patio house, and the hacienda are all interesting housing topologies that have both historical and climatic similarities to Montecito. Derived from the Greeks, the Romans, and the Spaniards, they are a series of interlocking combinations of indoor and outdoor spaces that together make up the house. The patio or rear garden is an integral part of the overall structure. In a sense, the house is made up of a variety of rooms, some with roofs and some without. For my wife Janet, the concept comes, in part, from personal experience. She spent her formative years in Venezuela, living in colonial homes with walled rear areas planted with fruit and shade trees. She also lived in very large haciendas where there were always fruit-bearing trees around the living areas.

What is your own personal philosophy with regard to designing living spaces?

We must always design for people. And we must be humble enough to understand that to honestly fulfill people's needs, we need to understand how and why they enjoy living spaces. What are the ordinary behaviors, chance meetings, or rhythms of our daily lives that design needs to accommodate? This gives us insight into how we can effectively design spaces for living either indoors or out of doors.

For more about Tim Coppola, visit www.tabercoppola.com.



the flavor of company
the lightness of being

LIVE IN THE WARMTH OF A FAMILIAR NEIGHBORHOOD. Your taste for living is heightened in the company of neighbors you intimately know. At Montecito's low-density community, there are only 250 homes spread over a 60-hectare expanse. With lot sizes ranging from 535 to 1,200 square meters, Montecito is meant for people with a preference for generous amounts of space. Water you can drink from the tap, environment-friendly resources, and a boundless spread of space and nature—Montecito is a thriving environment of wellness that brings you closer to the fullness of life.

Montecito

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